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Can
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Three players from rival clubs assess . . .

WEST BROM'S

'Albion won't do it'



MARTIN DOBSON (Everton)

I've been as impressed as anybody with West Bromwich Albion's exciting, attacking style — But I can't see them winning the First Division.

They look a very good side with no real weaknesses, yet I don't think they will do it. They have been lucky to have had such a long, unbeaten run. But once a run comes to an end it often results in a team falling away.

West Brom still have a long way to go to keep up their very high standard. I also think they will find it harder and harder after going top of the table. Teams will be going out to stop them playing.

Other sides will respect them more and try to close them down. It's happened to us this season because we've been successful.

They seem very quick and sharp and their big strength is opening up defences. Cyrille Regis and Ally Brown are getting a lot of goals.

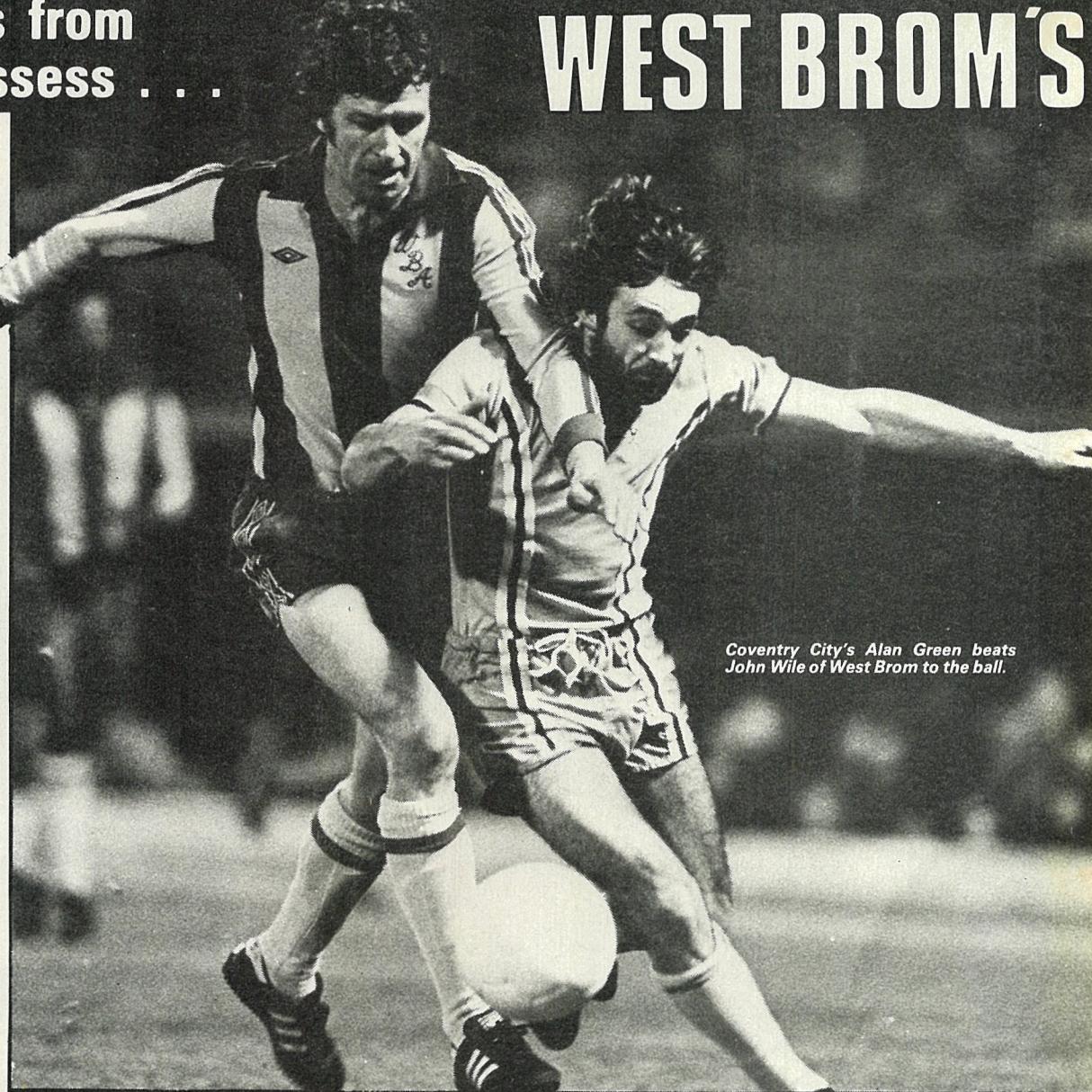
You can also bank on Tony Brown and Len Cantello scoring a dozen each. Laurie Cunningham has also been impressive with his pace and finishing.

It's staggering to see how many goals they score away from home by being so positive. Remember their five at Manchester United?

They were a good side under Johnny Giles, who took them up from the Second Division. But under Ron Atkinson they are much more attack-minded.

Johnny's style was to play from the back, and he himself was always looking to pick the ball up just outside his own penalty-area. But now the midfield players are pushed up more towards the opposition's penalty-area.

It will be great for football if they win the title — but somehow I just can't see them doing it.



Coventry City's Alan Green beats John Wile of West Brom to the ball.

'Good enough to take the title'



IAN WALLACE (Coventry)

SKY Blues have seen plenty of the West Brom attack this season — a bit too much in fact. We were thrashed 7-1 in a League match at The Hawthorns and then 4-0 in an F.A. Cup Third Round replay after a 2-2 draw at Highfield Road.

Thirteen goals against in three games doesn't sound too bright does it? But there aren't many sides as attack-minded as West Brom.

I thought we should have beaten them in the first Cup game. We

were 1-0 ahead and could have had more goals.

But in the replay, they turned it on again and were much the better side towards the finish.

I think they're good enough to win the title and I'd like to see them do it. I think it would be good for football and for the Midlands.

They're a great one-touch side with plenty of class players. They're also one of the few teams who always go for two points wherever they play. When they came to our place in the Cup, there was no question of them looking for the replay. They wanted to beat us straight off.

We're pretty attack-minded ourselves and most visiting sides are delighted if they get a draw on our ground.

The full-backs, Derek Statham and Brendon Batson are a big part of the Albion success because they're so attack minded. So from the back onwards, the whole team are looking to go forward.

I've sometimes thought that the full-backs go forward too much and ignore their defensive duties. But they seem to be great at get-

ting back. And John Wile and Alister Robertson are tremendously strong in the middle of the defence.

The only question now is whether they can have the consistency of Champions. I hope so — because on current form, they've certainly got the skill to do it.



VIV ANDERSON (Nottingham Forest)

CHANCES OF WINNING THE LEAGUE



Albion's Cyrille Regis (stripes) is outjumped by Bristol City's Gary Collier.

Comment from



TONY BROWN
(West Brom striker)

IT'S nice of Martin Dobson to feel concerned about the pressures we're facing at the top. But so far, we've been coping quite well.

We've noticed a difference in the attitude of opposing sides since Christmas. There's been more determination about their play. They've been getting stuck in to try and break up our rhythm.

But it hasn't stopped us. We've got players with the speed and skill to get away from trouble.

Viv Anderson says he wonders whether we have the reserves to carry us through when we run into a spell of injuries. A lot of other people have voiced doubts about that as well.

Yet we've had our fair share of knocks this season. Len Cantello has missed a few games. So has Cyrille Regis — and I'm almost into double figures in missed matches. We've got players who can adapt to different positions, which helps. And people coming into the side have slotted in very well.

I'm pleased that two of the other lads have pointed out the good work done by our centre-backs John Wile and Alistair Robertson. It's nice to see them get a bit of credit for a change.

The lads getting the goals always seem to get the glory. But it's only because we've got a great back-four behind us — the best in the country as far as I'm concerned — that we feel safe in pushing forward all the time.

I've never enjoyed my football so much. This is easily the best side I've ever played in at West Brom and we've got the talent to win the Championship. But we're trying not to talk about it too much at the moment.

Johnny Giles laid the foundations of the present team during his stay here. Now Ron Atkinson has persuaded us to attack even more and we fancy ourselves against anybody, wherever we play.

Our away record has been fantastic this season and we now expect to win away as well. I remember coming away from Norwich in January and feeling sick that we'd only took a point. The rest of the lads felt the same — and yet Carrow Road isn't the easiest place to win anything.

'So strong, no real weaknesses'

THE surging success of West Bromwich Albion this season is no surprise to me.

They're a very good side and fully deserved to go top of the table.

When you look at their side you can't see any real weaknesses. They're so strong all through. In fact two of the players who have impressed me most haven't had as much of the praise as some of the others — John Wile and Alistair Robertson in the middle of their defence.

I think they have enough ability

to go all the way and take the League title. It's nice to see another team in the Midlands getting some success!

When you look at their line-up you see that they are not a young side who have suddenly sprung up from nowhere.

They have been a good side for some years now and have got bags of experience. I remember being impressed by West Brom last season, and this time they just seem to have put it all together.

They have been lucky because they haven't had many injuries.

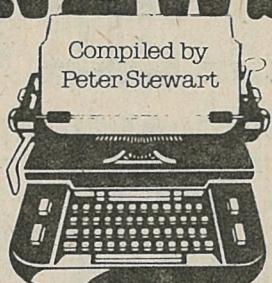
They've been able to play a settled side with a lot of the players on top of their form.

But I think if they do get injuries — and it's still early days — they could be struggling. I'm not sure how well off they are in the reserves.

I hope they do well because they play plenty of attacking football and that can only be good for the game. West Bromwich Albion have won a lot of followers among neutral supporters because they're so exciting.

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
Peter Stewart



THE Boxford Youth Football Club from Colchester, Essex, consisting of 16 boys between the ages of 11 and 13 have been invited by the Massepequa Youth League of America to play a series of English football matches in and around Massepequa, Long Island, during the two weeks commencing 7th April.

This is a marvellous opportunity for such a young group of players to be invited to represent English football and hopefully pave the way for future visits. The only costs involved are air fares and travelling expenses and this money is being raised by a series of fund raising events.

FACTastic

ON January 1st, 1957, match bonuses were increased by 50 per cent — from £2 to £3 for a win and from £1 to £1.10s. for a draw. So the following season the Championship-winning Manchester United players shared a total sum of just over £1,000. Nowadays that sum would not pay one week's wages!

DAVE'S 'GOLDIE' SURPRISE



WHEN 20-year-old Morton goalkeeper Dave Bracic received his Mackinlay's Football Personality of the Month Award last week at Cappielow, there was an extra surprise in store.

For waiting to present him with his prize of a giant bottle of whisky and cheque for £100 was Scottish model Marlen Goldie. And with Marlen suitably clad in tartan, Dave — who is the first American national to win the award — got the opportunity of seeing another of Scotland's national attractions.

For the first time in the Mackinlay's Award scheme's three-season history, there was a double presentation. Hal Stewart, the Morton supremo received the runner-up award of a giant bottle of Mackinlay's.

'DALEY STAYS'

says Wolves boss John Barnwell

JOHN BARNWELL, who took over as Wolves boss in November last year, was plagued in the first few months of his reign with questions concerning the transfer talk surrounding midfield star Steve Daley (left).

It got to such a point that Barnwell was quick to silence those seeking information about Daley.

"I just got fed up with the questions continually being asked," said Barnwell. "As far as I am concerned Daley is now quite happy as a Wolves player. I want him as a Wolves player and in the position we find ourselves in we need every man we have got."

"Daley is a class player, the type around whom one can build a good team."

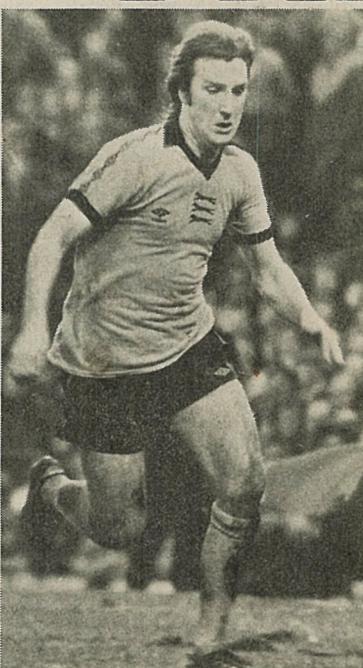
The 25-year-old Daley, rated in the £500,000 class, will evidently be staying at Wolves — if Barnwell has anything to say about it. Cer-

tainly, Barnwell would be guided by his directors. He does not want to see him go.

When Daley signed professional for Wolves in June, 1971, so did two other players — Alan Sunderland and Peter Eastoe, two strikers on whom Wolves have cashed in.

Sunderland moved on to Arsenal for £240,000 in November, 1977, while Eastoe was signed by Swindon for £80,000 in March, 1974, and then moved to Queens Park Rangers two years later for £90,000.

Barnsley-born Daley actually joined Wolves as a 15-year-old. He played for Barnsley schoolboys and the England Youth team and has also reached England 'B' class. Daley made a number of transfer requests before the arrival of Barnwell, now the new Wolves boss intends to hold on to his prize possession.



ONE of the most consistent performers in the Republic of Ireland must be Bohemians' keeper Mick Smyth. The 38-year-old had, at the time of going to Press, made over 120 consecutive appearances for The Gypsies since he regained the number one jersey from deputy Fred Davis in December, 1973. Incidentally, Davis is still with the club.

FORMER Welsh rugby ace Gareth Edwards is making a comeback . . . at soccer. Edwards retired from rugby last year after a wonderful career, but now finds he is missing the activity of sport.

He used to play football and earlier this season took part in Chris Lawler's testimonial at Anfield — "one of the most unforgettable and emotional nights of my life."

Now, Swansea fan Edwards is joining Isthmian League club Corinthian Casuals.

Programme Fair

DAGENHAM Football Club are holding their first Programme Fair on Sunday March 4th . . . 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The club-house is situated in Victoria Road, Dagenham. Buses 103 and 174 pass close to the ground. Nearest Underground Station is Dagenham East (District Line).

SHOWBIZ STARS AT MILLWALL

BEDE HOUSE ASSOCIATION — the organisation that runs clubs and adventure holidays for children, activities for the elderly and tuition for adults needing help with reading and writing, are staging a charity football match at Millwall on Monday 2nd April.

Many showbiz stars will be present, including it is hoped Patrick Mower of Target and Bill Oddie of The Goodies.

Remember the date — Monday 2nd April, Top Ten Eleven v. The All Star Eleven at The Den.

MICKY Barker, Gillingham's new £50,000 full-back signing from Newcastle United, retired from the game three seasons ago and worked in a Bishop Auckland garage after a pay dispute with former manager Gordon Lee.

Sacked — on the air

ANY manager who has just been given the sack has a right to feel a little aggrieved — but Tom McLoughlin was more upset than most when Cheshire Leaguers Radcliffe Borough relieved him of his post recently.

The reason — Tom heard he'd got the sack while listening to BBC Radio Manchester.

Radcliffe official Alan Bayfield said: "It was unfortunate that the news of his sacking was leaked to the radio before we had a chance to tell Tom."

New boss at Radcliffe is former Bury, Blackburn, Oldham and Southport striker George Jones.

News of Southport

IN case you ever wonder how ex-Football League side Southport are going on, we can tell you they're nicely placed in the Northern League — but gates at Haig Avenue are down to miserly proportions.

Against Stafford Rangers recently only 600 turned up, and over 200 were visiting supporters.

Manager Harry McNally gave out a verbal blasting that this sort of apathy will destroy whatever hopes the club nurture of regaining Football League status.

History shows, however, that once a club goes out of the League they stand little chance of ever getting back.

Do Spurs regret letting Jennings go?

ARE Spurs regretting their decision to release Pat Jennings to rivals Arsenal? Since the departure of the Irish goalkeeper, Spurs have struggled to find a replacement.

Successor Barry Daines hasn't really established himself and injuries have held him back this season.

Young Mark Kendall looks promising, yet perhaps isn't quite ready. He must also overcome his weight problem.

Recent £100,000 signing from Luton Town Milija Alekic made a boob in his home debut against Leeds, which enabled Paul Hart to head home a corner . . . and Spurs fans are asking: "What price Pat Jennings now?"

The smile on the face of Arsenal manager Terry Neill must stretch from Highbury to White Hart Lane!

Owl feels the cold

SHEFFIELD Wednesday striker John Lowe (right) is certainly feeling the weather this winter.

The ex-Manchester United player joined Wednesday last September from American League side California Sunshine.

• Any Sheffield Wednesday fans wishing to join the London Branch of the Supporters' Club can do so by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Mr. Vernon Grant, 7 Brabazon Road, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex TW5 9LL.



WHAT PRICE OUR STARS?



A SPANISH magazine has been speculating as to which foreign players could be signed by Spanish clubs next season and as a guide for their readers, they've published a list of "transferable" players along with their estimated value on the transfer market.

Borussia Mönchengladbach's Danish striker Simonsson is top of the list with an estimated price-tag of £525,000, followed by Bayern Munich's Rummennigge, valued at £490,000.

Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish is third on the list, but it's interesting to note the Spaniards' idea of how much some of our top British players are worth. Dalglish is rated at £420,000 — less than the figure Liverpool paid for him two years ago!

And have a look at these other British price-ratings:

Ray Clemence (Liverpool)	£350,000
Peter Shilton (Forest)	£315,000
Liam Brady (above, Arsenal)	£280,000
Laurie Cunningham (West Brom)	£280,000
Peter Barnes (Man. City)	£280,000
Gordon McQueen (Man. Utd.)	£280,000
Bob Latchford (Everton)	£245,000
Ray Wilkins (Chelsea)	£245,000
Paul Mariner (Ipswich)	£245,000
Andy Gray (Villa)	£245,000
Derek Johnstone (Rangers)	£245,000
Garry Birtles (Forest)	£175,000

They've got to be joking!

THE bad weather that has played havoc with our soccer this winter has brought some unusual stories and the recent Peterborough/Spurs South East Counties League game was certainly . . . different.

Apart from the fact that it ended 4-4, the match, at Eastney, was played in a blizzard. Snow fell throughout the game and while play was going on at one end, snow was being cleared away at the other!

A DOUBLE milestone for Bristol City when they defeated Ipswich Town 3-1 at Ashton Gate on February 3rd. It was their 100th win in 300 First Division games.

TOMMY Taylor, West Ham's centre-half, is to quit the club at the end of the season. He intends starting a new career in America.

A nice gesture by Fourth Division promotion hopefuls Aldershot. They rewarded the entire playing staff by taking a party of 27 to Marbella, Spain, for a four day winter break prior to their Cup-tie with Swindon.

RAITH Rovers' next manager is likely to be the club's leading goalscorer this season, 34-year-old Gordon Wallace. When manager Willie McLean left to join Ayr United where he succeeded former Scotland team-boss Ally MacLeod now with Motherwell, the Kirkcaldy directors moved quickly.

Wallace, who is player-coach at Starks Park, was invited to sit in with two directors, ex-players Bobby Reid and Andy Matthew, on team selection and other matters. The move will give him the opportunity to ease himself gradually into the management side of the game.

Feeney Sinks Glens

EX-Glentoran idol Warren Feeney, now with Linfield, got one — or two! — over his former team-mates by hitting a fine duo in Blues' recent 2-1 Windsor Park League win over the Ovalites.

Opportunist Feeney, the one-time Glens' Goal King who totalled well over 200 senior goals in his glittering Oval career, was appearing in his first "Old Firm" game AGAINST Glentoran, since his early-season transfer to Linfield.

ARSENAL'S David O'Leary will be soccer representative in the R.T.E. (Eire Television) Superstars competition which will be recorded in Dublin on February 28th and March 1st.

THE Eire Cup Final on Sunday April 16th will be sponsored by Mitre.

Award for Mark

MARK Lawrenson, Brighton's talented defender, has been over to Dublin to collect the gold medal he won in the Chrysler sponsored "Irish Sportsman of the Week" contest. He was awarded the medal for his performance for the Republic of Ireland in their 3-3 draw with Denmark in Copenhagen.



More seats at Anfield

LIVERPOOL Football club have unveiled plans to install 4,000 extra seats and 34 private boxes on the Kemlyn Road side of their ground at Anfield.

They have submitted an outline plan to the City Council for approval.

Liverpool's ground capacity is 52,318. Their record attendance was 61,905 for their F.A. Cup Fourth Round game against Wolverhampton Wanderers in February, 1952.

Team-Boss Changes

SINCE the start of last term, there have been managerial changes at no fewer than NINE of Northern Ireland's 12 senior clubs.

Only Roy Coyle (Linfield), Brian Halliday (Larne) and Jackie Hutton (Cliftonville) have retained their team-chief posts during this time.

FLANAGAN STRIKES AGAIN



CHARLTON ATHLETIC striker Mike Flanagan drove away from London's Press Centre recently in a £5,500 Toyota Celica GT — his own choice of prize for winning the "Most valuable player of the year" title, sponsored by Toyota USA in conjunction with the North American Soccer League.

Flanagan, one of the top strikers in English football and the first Englishman to win the title for outstanding performances in the North League, was delighted with his prize.

Receiving the keys from Mike Caridia, National Sales Manager of Toyota (GB) Ltd., he said: "If your job depends on speed and fast reactions, you need a car that behaves the same way, to keep your responses in tune. For my purposes the 120 mph Celica GT has everything."

The soccer star lives with his wife Louise and baby son, Adam, in Hornchurch, Essex.

Degree for Nulty

WHO said footballers' brains are in their boots? Everton's midfield player Geoff Nulty has graduated in arts and social science at the Open University after a five year course.

He studied between training sessions and matches with Everton and Newcastle United, his former club.

• Geoff is seen with Sue Green of Uckfield, Ward Sister Paula McGee of Selly Oak, Birmingham, and bus driver Tom Nesbitt, of Richmond, Yorkshire.

They were handed their degrees in the presence of Prime Minister James Callaghan and Mrs. Callaghan, guests of honour marking the Open University's tenth year.

DISTILLERY'S 4-2 home League defeat of Ballymena United, on January 24, was The Whites' first win in 14 competitive outings.

And the Gibby McKenzie-bossed Belfast club's 1-0 success at Coleraine, three days later, was their first away triumph since a Ulster Cup victory over The Bannsiders, on October 14.

SALE of the CENTURY

IF you were asked to name the transfer bargain of all time you would no doubt need to think very hard before answering. BBC Radio Birmingham have no doubts. They recently reported that Arsenal had signed Brian Talbot from Ipswich for £450,000, breaking the club transfer record set previously when they paid THREE HUNDRED & THIRTY POUNDS for Malcolm Macdonald!

BURY manager Dave Hatton is delighted that his decision to splash out a club record £35,000 on David Gregory from Stoke has paid handsome dividends.

"One of the most skilful footballers I have ever played with," says Hatton.

Bury have produced some star players in their time. The likes of Colin Bell, Ray Parry and Ray Pointer were thrilling the fans at Gigg Lane in the Sixties.

CELTIC are interested in Motherwell's Scotland Under-21 sweeper Gregor Stevens. 'Well rejected a Rangers' bid of over £100,000 earlier this season.

'Be Careful' warns Collins

RÖCHDALE players can expect a stern warning from their new boss Doug Collins to be discreet when talking to the Press.

The former Burnley and Plymouth midfielder, who left a coaching post at Derby to take over as player-manager of Rochdale, was suspended for a fortnight by the then Burnley team-boss Joe Brown in March, 1976.

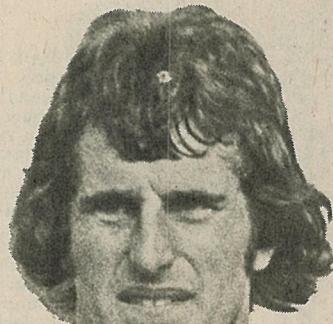
He was guilty of stating — and he admitted the offence — that when he turned out for Burnley he was playing for himself and not the club.

But that was one of four occasions when Doug stepped out of line. Once he even found favour with the F.A., having a dissent "four pointer" (against Chelsea in 1974) wiped out.

The disciplinary committee later accepted Burnley's claim that it had been only a "mild form".

Rochdale hope Collins will pull them clear of the four re-election positions, thus avoiding a second successive "take us back" application to the Football League, although it would be only their fourth since the Fourth Division was started 20 years ago.

Under Collins, they were off to a fine 1-1 draw away to promotion challengers Portsmouth, whose equaliser was delayed until the last minute.



'Defenders need to be goalscorers'

RAY CLEMENCE
talking soccer

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Debut goal

When Frank Clark scored for Forest at Ipswich last April, it was his first League goal in 486 games. Is this a record?

**IAN ROSS,
CAITHNESS**

• Nearly, but not quite, Ian. Another defender named Wilf Milne — who played a club-record 585 League games for Swansea between 1920 and 1937 — had to wait until his 500th appearance before scoring his first League goal.

Mum's friend

As a keen Forest supporter, I'd like to know something about an old friend of my Mum's, Tommy Wilson.

**JOHN BEALES,
NOTTINGHAM**

TWENTY years ago a defender rarely got his name on the scoresheet — and when he did it was invariably through scoring an own goal.

In those days teams played in a "W" formation, with five forwards, three half-backs and two full-backs, so there was no call for defenders to get up into the opposing penalty area.

In fact, a defender was generally restricted to operating only up as far as the halfway line; from then on he handed over to other members of his team.

But as the game became more tactical, so the defender was called upon to contribute to his team's goalscoring.

The last three World Cup Finals have demonstrated how defenders must not only win the ball, but make goals, and put the ball in the net.

Defenders are now much more athletic, no longer the big-thighed, lumbering fellows with big

kicks. They are usually as fast as wingers, capable of doubling as touchline sprinters themselves.

Many of the outstanding full-backs in football today have formerly been wingmen. A few continue to play in either position; for instance van der Elst, who is a winger for his country, Belgium, and a full-back for his club, Anderlecht.

I had first hand experience of his exceptional talents when Liverpool played Anderlecht in this season's Super Cup competition.

The Belgians were one-up in the first-leg on their ground when he began a move on the halfway line. He worked the ball out to the wing, released it to a team-mate and then raced across to the penalty-spot to volley the pass away from me and into our net.

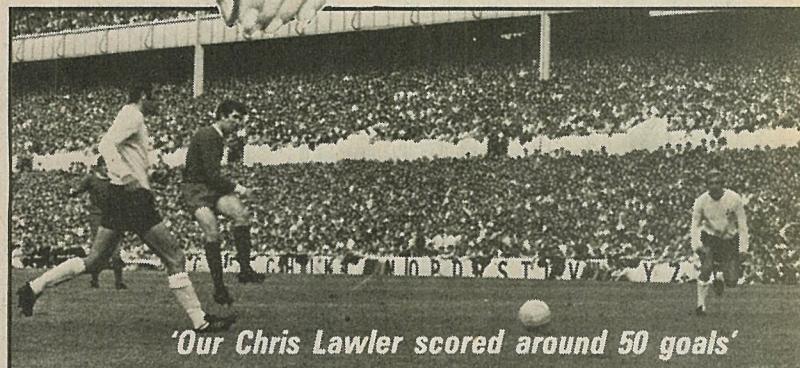
Anderlecht went on to score again, to bring a 3-1 lead to Anfield which we failed to cancel out.

Ever since I've been at Liverpool we've had goal-getting full-backs, with Chris Lawler as the king of them. Chris (scoring v. Spurs below) finished his Anfield career with a total of around 50 goals, and not one of them from a penalty conversion, for he never took them.

He was aptly nicknamed "The Ghost" for his ability to drift through the opposition like some spectral, elusive figure and pop the ball home without anyone — including his own team-mates — being aware of how he'd actually done it!

We have come to rely on a full-back contributing five or six goals during a season towards winning the Championship and a Cup — or both.

Right-back Phil Neal has scored around 20 goals in four seasons,



'Our Chris Lawler scored around 50 goals'

• Tommy Wilson scored one of the goals by which Forest beat Luton 2-1 in the 1959 F.A. Cup Final, John.

A long-serving Forest stalwart, Wilson — who joined the club as a junior from nearby Cinderhall Colliery — first played for them as a right-winger, but rapidly became a skilful leader of the attack.

He made his League debut for Forest in the 1952-53 season, and remained with the club for around ten years.

Johnny Haynes

How many games did Johnny Haynes play for Fulham, and for England?

**KHER CHENG HONG,
MALAYSIA**

• Haynes — who spent all his League career with Fulham and, in 1961, became this country's first £100-a-week footballer — played a club-record 598 League games for them between 1952 and 1970, Kher.

In the process, he scored 159 League goals — another Fulham club-record.

Johnny Haynes scored 18 times in his 56 full internationals for England. He also played in five "B XI" games, and eight at Under-23 level.

Ian Storey-Moore

How many League appearances did Ian Storey-Moore make before injury unfortunately forced him to quit the game?

**JOHN HUNTER,
LONDONDERRY**

• He kicked-off with 234 League games (105 goals) for Nottingham Forest, John, before joining Manchester United on 8th March, 1972 for £200,000.

At Old Trafford, however, he was able to play only 39 League games (11 goals) before injury problems forced him out.

some from the spot, although he has now been replaced as our penalty-taker by Terry McDermott after a couple of misses.

Phil has also been on the mark for England.

Our left-back berth was once filled by Alec Lindsay, who moved on to Stoke, a player I rate as probably the most constructive defender in the game, in the mould of Terry Cooper.

Alec has an incredibly accurate left foot which allows him to drop a ball just where he wants to. I'd back him to hit a sixpence at 25 yards.

He also packs a mighty shot. In our 1974 F.A. Cup Final against Newcastle United at Wembley, with the score at 0-0, he volleyed an awkwardly angled ball into the right-hand corner of their net, only to have a goal disallowed because Kevin Keegan was offside.

His successor, ironically enough, is Alan Kennedy, just about the only Newcastle player to emerge with credit from that Final, and whom we bought for £300,000 in the close season.

Alan has yet to reproduce the form he showed playing against us over the years, but I suspect it's down to being over-eager to impress. Like Alec, he has a deadly accurate left-foot, but when he gets in and around the opponents' box tends to lack composure and rush things.

However, he came back after injury to help us knock out Blackburn Rovers in the F.A. Cup Fourth Round and is certain to establish himself as a regular. It's rare that a new signing slots in straight away at Anfield, as Ray Kennedy and Alan Hansen can testify.

Liverpool don't have a monopoly of defenders capable of scoring

'Dave Watson climbs to an incredible height'



goals. Aston Villa's John Gidman and West Brom's Derek Statham have given me some nasty frights, although they haven't yet beaten me.

The Arsenal pair, Pat Rice and Sammy Nelson, can always be relied on to let fly a shot whenever the chance presents itself.

Nottingham Forest's Viv Anderson is making a name for himself with his surges into attack and on-target shooting. Against Everton in the League Cup at Goodison Park, I saw him score one of the best goals I've ever seen.

Picking up the ball on the halfway line, he went round a couple of defenders before unleashing a curving shot that appeared to be going two yards wide and which completely deceived George Wood.

It curled into the top corner of the net, and many observers thought it a fluke until they saw him do the same thing against AEK Athens a couple of weeks later.

Whereas full-backs most often score when the game is flowing, central-defenders tend to get goals from set-piece moves, such as free-kicks and corners.

There are very few players like Franz Beckenbauer, who can play one-two's up the field and end a move by scoring from inside the box.

Dave Watson of Manchester City

and England is deadly in the air with his ability to reach an incredible height. It's probably the reason why, at the start of his career, with Rotherham and Sunderland, he functioned as a centre-forward.

Nottingham Forest are fortunate in having two six-foot centre-halves in Larry Lloyd — a former teammate of mine at Liverpool — and Dave Needham, who came from Q.P.R.

Dave seems to have made a speciality of scoring at the near-post.

Larry collected what must surely be the goal of his life against York City in the F.A. Cup when he hit a left-foot screamer into the net from outside the box.

For years Mick Mills has been at left-back a position he still holds for England with Ipswich Town, but recently because of the number of "walking wounded" at the club and the departure of Brian Talbot to Arsenal, he has been switched to midfield with great success.

My worst memory of Mick is from a Third Round F.A. Cup tie a few years ago at Portman Road when we, as Cup-holders, were holding on for a draw and expecting to take Ipswich to a replay at Anfield.

In the dying minutes, on a mud-patch of a pitch, Mick came sliding in and got their winning goal.

Ipswich's most effective central-

defender is Kevin Beattie, rightly called "The Tank" for his powerful, aggressive style. Unfortunately the penalty he pays for his fearless commitment to every tackle is a regular series of injuries.

Probably his flukiest goal came in a home match against Leeds United this season when his long free-kick from well outside their box floated over the head of 'keeper David Harvey who had come too far off his line.

The goal equalised an opener by Ray Hankin, but the Leeds team went on to win by 3-2.

Another skilful central-defender dogged by injury is Roy McFarland of Derby County, who is once again back in the side and should line-up against Liverpool for our League match at the Baseball Ground this Saturday, February 24th.

Roy played a vital role in Derby's two Championship wins — in 1972 and 1975 — and his present task is to help bring along the youngsters that manager Tommy Docherty is introducing into the side.

Roy must miss the presence of Colin Todd, now with Everton, although he does have alongside him that great professional who never admits defeat, David Webb.

It was dynamic, all-action Webbie who scored Chelsea's winning goal in the 1970 F.A. Cup Final replay against Leeds at Old Trafford.

We've a score to settle with Derby, for last year they beat us 4-2, with Charlie George having a field day.

Owing to an injury, I'd had to drop out, my place in goal being taken by Steve Ogrizovic. But I couldn't have done any better than Steve. Derby were unstoppable.

With Charlie gone to Southampton, and so much inexperience in the side, some people might expect us to be due for an easy win.

Don't include us amongst them. The Rams have already beaten West Brom, our most dangerous rivals in the Championship stakes.

If we do get those two points, we'll have had to bring out our very best qualities — lots of hard work allied to every ounce of skill!

6-6 draw

What is the highest-scoring draw in a Football League match?

ANDREW WATSON,
STOWMARKET

I'll be honest, Andrew, and admit I'm just not sure of the teams concerned — though I'm pretty certain the game ended at 6-6.

Of course, we didn't do too badly in this respect quite recently — when Bristol Rovers and Charlton drew 5-5 in a Second Division game on 18th November, 1978.

Without a goal

Which club has gone the longest in the Football League without scoring a goal?

KEVIN SMITH,
READING

SHORT PASSES

Wolves have been League Champions three times; won the F.A. Cup four times; and won the League Cup once.

(DEO CATANIA, Malta)

The Celtic side which won the 1967 European Cup Final was — Simpson, Craig, Gemmell, Murdoch, McNeill, Clark, Johnstone, Wallace, Chalmers, Auld, and Lennox.

(NEIL WATERS, Mid-Glamorgan)

The F.A. Cup was won by Aston Villa in 1920; by Bolton in 1923; by Newcastle in 1924; and by Bolton again in 1926.

(EMAD ALI HASSAN, Iraq)

Leeds United's Peter Lorimer has gained 21 full Scottish caps.

(JULIAN SHREEVE, Anglesey)

Stockport's best finishing-position in the League is tenth in Division Two in 1905-06; they reached the F.A. Cup Fifth Round in both 1934-35 and 1949-50.

(GARY DAVIES, Stockport)

Youngest-ever F.A. Cup referee was 32-year-old Herbert Bamlett, in 1914 (Burnley 1, Liverpool 0).

(BRIAN COLCLOUGH, Stockton)

Corinthians supplied all 11 players for the England side which beat Wales 5-1 at Wrexham in 1894, and also when the two countries drew 1-1 at Queen's Club, London, in 1895.

(SIMON BARTZ, Cardiff)

Preston's record home gate is 42,684 (v. Arsenal; Div. One; 23rd April, 1938).

(MARK DISLEY, Preston)

Only four clubs have gained the League/F.A. Cup "Double" — Preston (1888-89); Villa (1896-97); Spurs (1960-61); and Arsenal (1970-71).

(MARK GORRINGE, Andover)

A survey of the four clubs which have spent the whole of their Football League careers in either the Second or Third Divisions.

WHAT have Bristol Rovers, Hull City, Plymouth Argyle and Swindon Town in common? They are the only teams to have spent their entire careers in the Second or Third Divisions.

Remember visiting Bristol Rovers' 8-2 thrashing of Brian Clough's Brighton five years ago? The former were then in the midst of an impressive undefeated run in their first 27 fixtures of the 1973-74 campaign but by the end of April, however, Rovers only managed runners-up spot on goal average over York, although both teams clinched promotion to the Second Division on the strength of the inaugural year of three-up and three-down.

Bristol Rovers' best era was the 1950's. In this decade, as well as being Champions of the Third, they twice got to within four places of rising to the First Division and twice reached the Quarter-Finals of the F.A. Cup, on the latter occasion (1958) beating First Division Burnley in a replay, and their Bristol rivals before going down to Fulham.

If ever a team went close to reaching the First Division, without subsequently getting there, it was Hull City. In 1910 Oldham piped them to a promotion place by a mere .285 of a goal. Only once in their first ten seasons following admission to the League in 1905 did The Tigers finish with a double figure position in the Second.

Another high point of their existence came exactly 20 years after their heart-breaking failure to break into top company when it took a replay for Arsenal to prevent them reaching the F.A. Cup Final in 1930.

Pattern

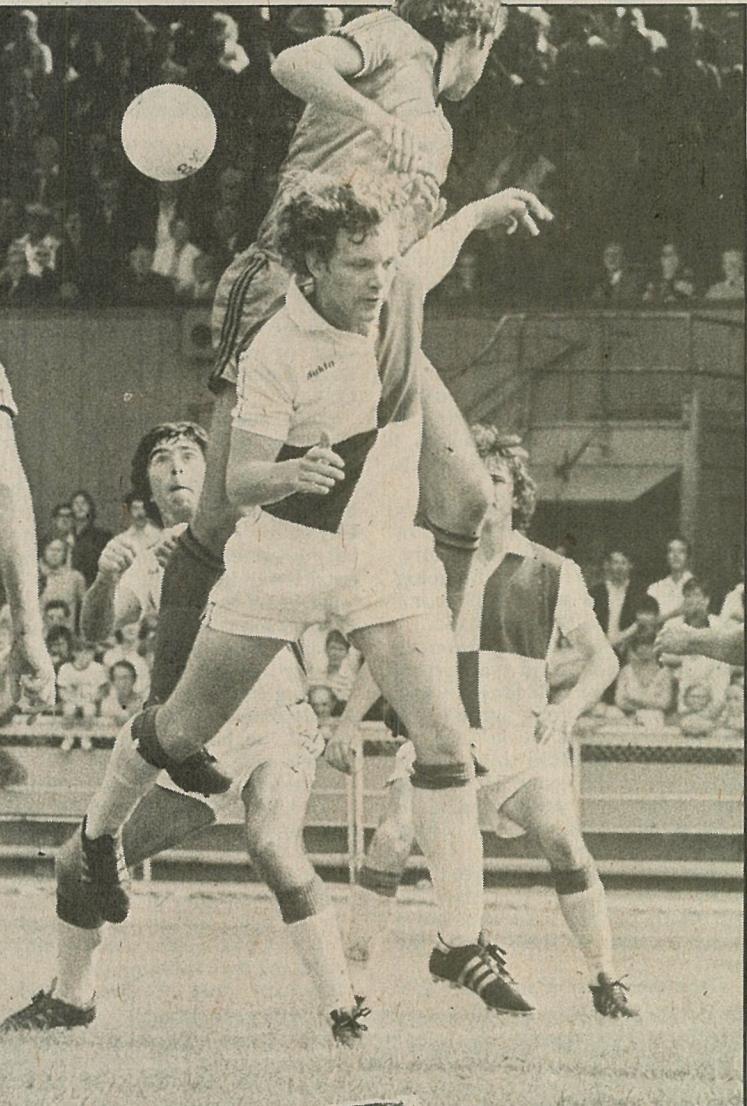
Since then, the club has gone up and down again on four separate occasions and is currently in the Third again. Nevertheless, Hull City supporters should not be too pessimistic. The team's spells in the lower League have formed a definite pattern of three, six, three and six seasons so history favours a return to the top 44 for them around 1981!

Plymouth had the most remarkable start of all the 92 clubs in the Football League. Joining the Third Division as founder members in 1920, they drew half their 42 matches and finished in a modest 11th position in their initial season but followed this up by being runners-up in the next six years!

Their defence was particularly mean in 1921-22 in conceding an average of just over half a goal per game. In those days only one promotion place was available so The Pilgrims saw a succession of South Western teams, Bristol City (twice), Southampton, Portsmouth, Swansea and, from further

ABOVE, RIGHT... Bristol Rovers' David Williams in action against Fulham this season. RIGHT... As a Third Division club, Swindon beat Arsenal to lift the 1969 League Cup trophy.

THE MIDDLE MEN



RIGHT... Hull's David Sunley demonstrates a spectacular overhead kick during a Second Division game with Charlton in the 1976-77 season. **BELOW, RIGHT...** Plymouth's Mick Horswill clears from Mickey Walsh, then of Blackpool.

afield, Reading, beat them to the Second Division — twice by just a point and once on goal average.

In 1928 and 1929 they slipped to third and fourth, then at last gained the prize which had previously proved so elusive by becoming Champions of the Third South in 1930 by seven points.

During the new decade Plymouth made a serious bid to get into the First Division, finishing fourth, fifth, seventh and eighth in those immediate pre-War years. Having struggled so hard to obtain the higher status, Argyle were reluctant to relinquish it.

They held it for 20 years and, when they were relegated twice in the 1950's, it took them only two and three attempts to get back into the Second Division. Again they pressed hard to reach the top League, coming fourth and fifth in the Second in 1953 and 1962.

Lately, efforts have been concentrated more on League Cup glory, Plymouth reached the Semi-Finals of that competition both in 1965 and 1974.

Slipped

On the latter occasion, despite being in the lower reaches of the Third Division, into which League they had slipped in 1968, they amazed the soccer world by winning on the First Division grounds of Burnley, Q.P.R. and Birmingham before Manchester City brought their magnificent run to a close.

Carried on by the momentum of this, Argyle returned next season to what must be considered their rightful home — the Second Division, although, at present, they are again in the Third.

Swindon is one of only two teams to have won major honours while in the Third Division, yet they have never won the Championship of any of the Divisions, their only other triumph coming in the Anglo-Italian Cup in 1970.

Town beat Arsenal 3-1 in the 1969 League Cup Final with two goals from Don Rogers.

Two years earlier, fellow-Third Divisioners, Q.P.R., had achieved the same honours, also over First Division opponents. Both clubs were promoted to the Second Division in the same season in which they captured the League Cup.

Swindon had also risen to the Second six seasons earlier, after being a Third Division outfit since joining the newly-formed Third Division 43 years previously as inaugural members in 1920, but they could only hold their place in the top 44 for 24 months.

Even when promoted as League Cup-holders, The Robins only lasted five years in the Second so, of the 52 seasons of their League life, 45 have been played out in the Third Division.

It remains a remarkable statistic that in the total of 219 seasons in which these four clubs have confined their activities solely to the middle two Divisions, they have never all played in the Second Division or all in the Third Division at the same time.



RECORDS OF THE FOUR TEAMS

	JOINED LEAGUE	PRESENT DIV.	SEASONS IN		TOTAL	TIMES PROMOTED	TIMES RELEGATED
			DIV. 2	DIV. 3			
Bristol Rovers.....	1920	2	14	38	52	2	1
Hull City.....	1905	3	44	19	63	4	5
Plymouth Argyle.....	1920	3	28	24	52	4	4
Swindon Town.....	1920	3	7	45	52	2	2

Figures include the 1978-79 season



HONOURS

1929-30	Plymouth Argyle	Champions Division Three South
1932-33	Hull City.....	Champions Division Three North
1948-49	Hull City.....	Champions Division Three North
1951-52	Plymouth Argyle	Champions Division Three South
1952-53	Bristol Rovers.....	Champions Division Three South
1958-59	Plymouth Argyle	Champions Division Three
1965-66	Hull City.....	Champions Division Three
1968-69	Swindon Town.....	Football League Cup winners
1969-70	Swindon Town.....	Anglo-Italian Cup winners
	Hull 3 honours, Plymouth 3, Swindon 2 and Bristol Rovers 1.	

'America is no place for England's youngsters'



says Jim McCalliog

go out there when they're about 15 or 16. And that's not likely to happen. If they did, they'd be able to become American players by the time they're 21."

McCalliog linked up with Willie Bell to help Lincoln City. Lincoln's start to the season wasn't great — they were bottom of the table after eight matches. But McCalliog had high hopes for the future, despite that.

"We've got some great young kids coming along at this club," he said. "And we're very enthusiastic to get things going. If we can survive this season, the kids should learn a lot and stand us in good stead for next term."

"I'm learning a fantastic amount as player-coach. It's my ambition to become a manager eventually and this is a fine training ground for me."

"It was disappointing to be bottom of the Third Division but it didn't get me down. I'm enjoying it immensely at Sincil Bank."

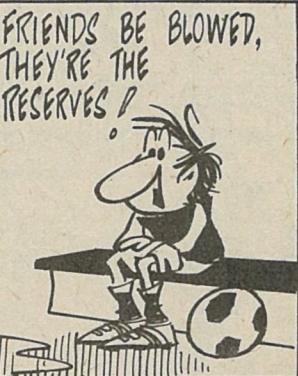
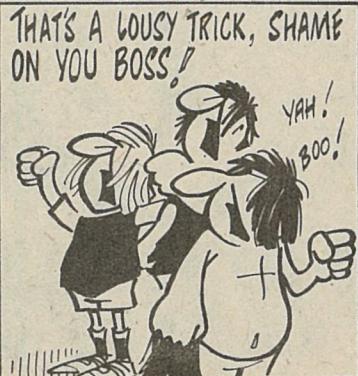
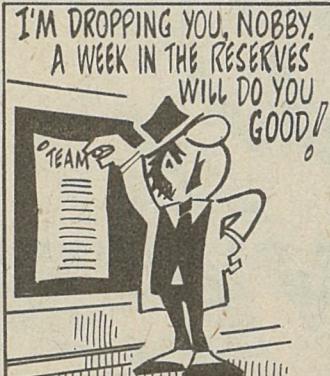
"I'm enjoying the other side of the game. The boss has given me plenty of encouragement and I've learned a great many things already. Being involved in the coaching has opened my eyes."

"I spent most of my career in the First Division so now I'm finding out what it's like in the lower regions. I'm quite surprised — there is more time to play and use the ball than I had imagined."

The Third is better than the Second Division which is surprising. I didn't really enjoy it in the Second — it is a very hard Division to get out of."

So what happens next summer? Will McCalliog still aim to cash in on his experience and go to America? "I doubt it very much," he said. "All I want to do at the end of the season is have a four-week break on holiday and then get started here again. England is where my future is now."

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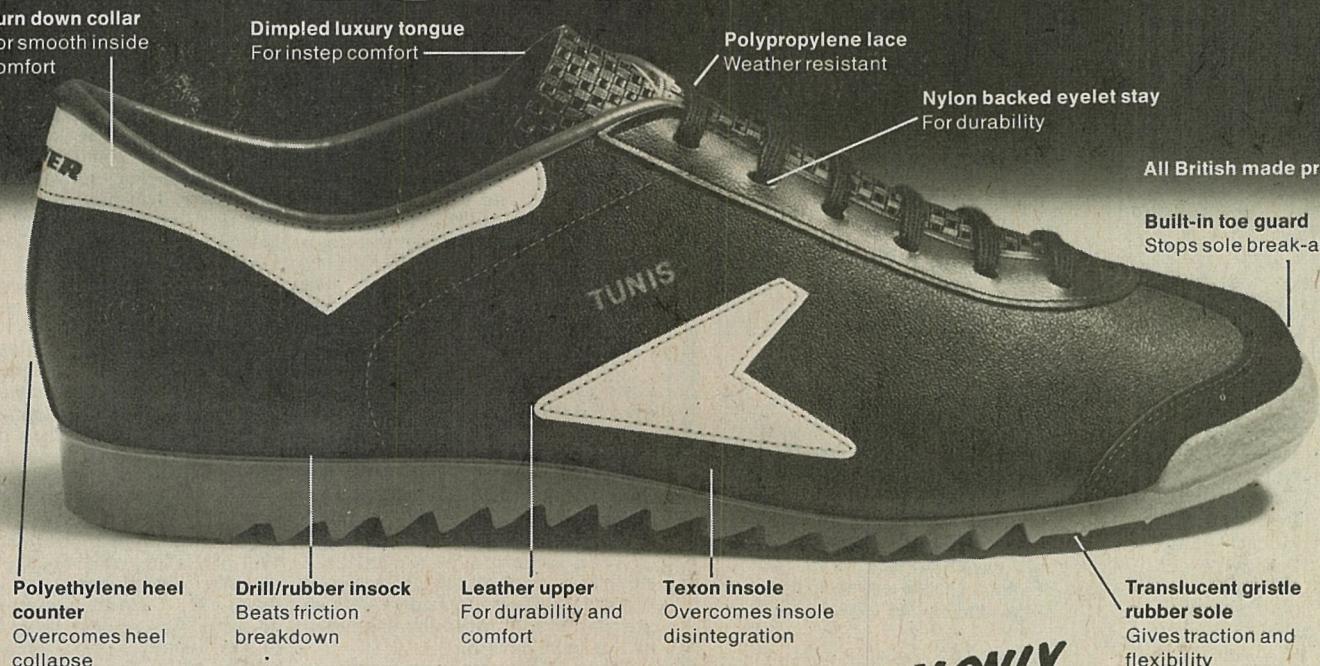
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NORTHERN IRELAND ARE STILL A DANGER TO ENGLAND



ENGLAND have a long way to go before they can consider themselves safely through to the 1980 European Championship Finals in Italy.

That is the opinion of Northern Ireland manager Danny Blanchflower, whose customary charm and turn-of-phrase were laced with a biting edge after watching England crush his brave Ulstermen 4-0 at Wembley in a vital Group One tie.

Chelsea manager Blanchflower was quick to concede defeat and refused to seek excuses. But he disagreed with the opinion England deserved the margin of their triumph, shattered the growing euphoria and pointed out the problems Ron Greenwood's men still face, and may not be able to overcome.

England manager Ron Greenwood admitted deficiencies in his team, gave Ireland credit for their attacking attitude and warned of the dangers of over-confidence. But it was Blanchflower who gave considerable food for thought.

He said: "Kevin Keegan was the difference between the teams. He is fast, clever and a great asset because he puts pressure on central defenders. If we'd had him, I believe we could have nicked a draw at the very least.

"We did not deserve to lose 4-0. England played well during a crucial spell and killed the game — and us — with two quick goals after half-time. But up to then they led by a Keegan goal, survived a lot of Irish pressure and Sammy McIlroy hit a post with Clemence beaten.

"So let's keep things in perspective. This Group is a long way from being settled. England still face two very difficult matches, away to Bulgaria and away to us in Belfast. And I believe we can still

finish top.

"When England experience a poor result, it hits them hard. But Ireland is used to getting beaten. I was a reasonable player and I suffered a lot of hammerings playing for my country. But I will pick them up again and we will bounce back. We always do. Because of our limited squad, we have to.

"England proved what we all know — anybody can play well when two goals up. That first-half was all about our greater share of possession and our inability to make it pay off. Everybody makes mistakes. England's defence made them and went unpunished. Ireland's defence made mistakes and we were punished.

Rugby

"I was unhappy about some of the tackling and some of the challenges on my players. The elbowing, the tackles from behind. This is rugby, not football. And I have to say if England go abroad with this attitude they may have problems.

"What I keep remembering is England's defence was ready to be taken. If we'd had Keegan it would have been a very different proposition. So I do not think we should talk in terms of the Finals in Italy just yet."

Blanchflower repeated his early admission that England's triumph was deserved and dismissed any possibilities of sour grapes. Yet he could not resist a smiling parting barb: "As it turned out, the 'underdogs' of England won... heavily."

Greenwood seemed unaware of Blanchflower's true feelings because he quickly praised Ireland, and his own players, for the entertainment they provided. And rightly so. But he added: "We were sloppy in the latter stages of the game and I had a few words to say

about that. But when you can be critical in a constructive way after winning 4-0, it is a good sign.

"Ireland deserve credit for coming to Wembley looking for victory. They could have shut up shop and played for a draw. But they were always prepared to compete and come forward. That is why they began the night as Group leaders."

In reply to criticism of his often stretched defence, Greenwood said: "No matter how great a side you are you will come under pressure at some stage in a match. Ireland had their best spell before half-time, after we had taken the lead. But I believe we acquitted ourselves well at the back. We kept a clean sheet. What more can you achieve?"

Greenwood's enthusiasm grew when the conversation turned towards individuals and Kevin Keegan in particular.

"Kevin and Trevor Brooking are developing a telepathic understanding. That lovely little near-post ball which resulted in Bob Latchford scoring number four was not a move we ever worked on in training. It was the result of instinct and inventiveness.

"This can only come when players work together over a number of games. We have chopped and

'Nobody is going to concede an inch to England' — Ron Greenwood

'England still face two very difficult matches' — Danny Blanchflower



changed teams too often in the past. I bet a number of people believed I'd selected the wrong team before playing Ireland. But I believe in a settled team.

"Danny has made a very valid point concerning our away games. We have a game in hand, but that game is away to Bulgaria. And when we go there, 60,000 Bulgarians will pack the national stadium and we will play in something like 70 degrees in the shade. With all due respect to Ireland, their visit to Bulgaria did not stimulate anything like the interest that ours will.

"It's the same with Denmark. Their top players are openly admitting they are asking to be released from their various European clubs just to play against England at Wembley. To them it is a great occasion. It is a marvellous compliment to England.

"Nobody is going to concede an inch to England. We must expect very difficult games in Bulgaria and Ireland."

Blanchflower nodded approvingly. Already the 4-0 defeat was fading from his mind as he relished the thought of the pressure that will be exerted by those collective crowds — 60,000 in Bulgaria and 50,000 in Belfast. England are far from safely qualified.

A KEVIN
A Keegan-inspired England ensured no Irish eyes were smiling at Wembley last month when Ron Greenwood's team beat Northern Ireland 4-0 to go top of the European Championship Group One. Here are England's four goals and the best of the action . . .

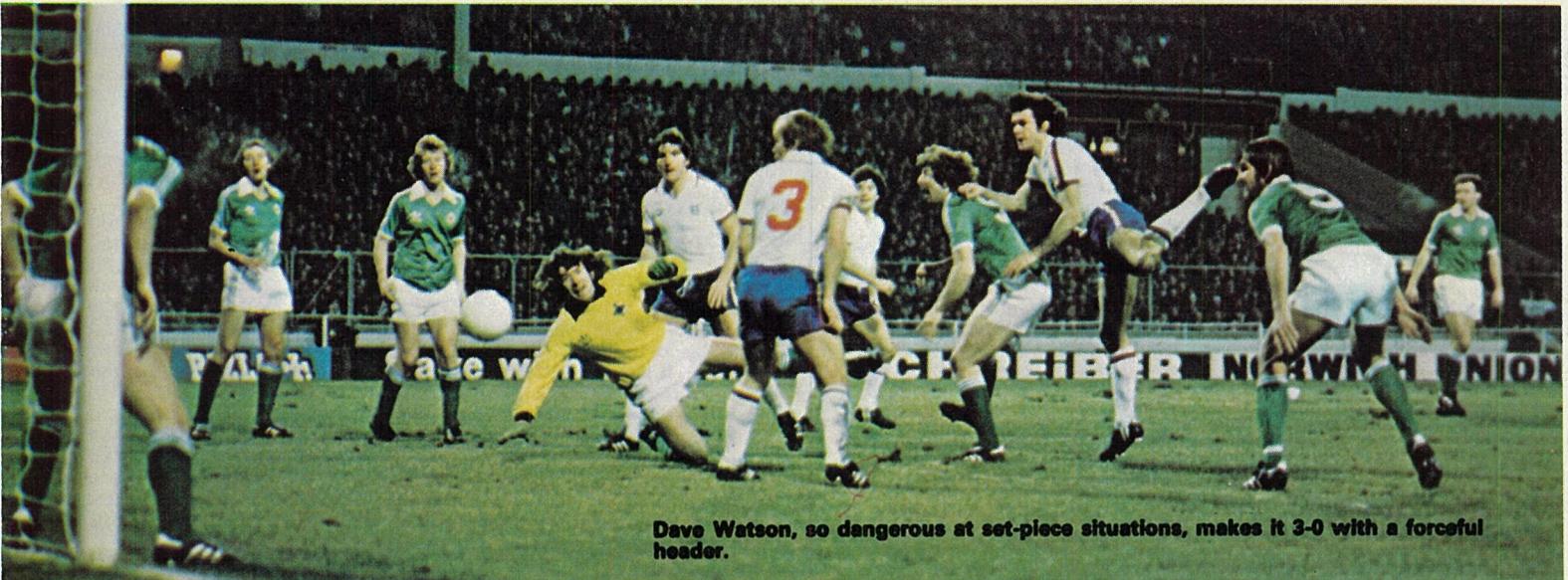
Man of the Match Kevin Keegan meets Steve Coppell's centre to put England 1-0 up.



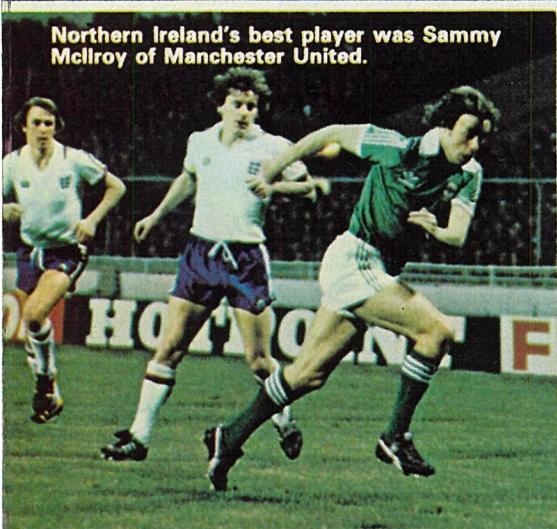
SUPER ENGLAND ON TOP!



It was Keegan who made goal number two, his superb left-wing centre being nodded home by big Bob Latchford.



Dave Watson, so dangerous at set-piece situations, makes it 3-0 with a forceful header.



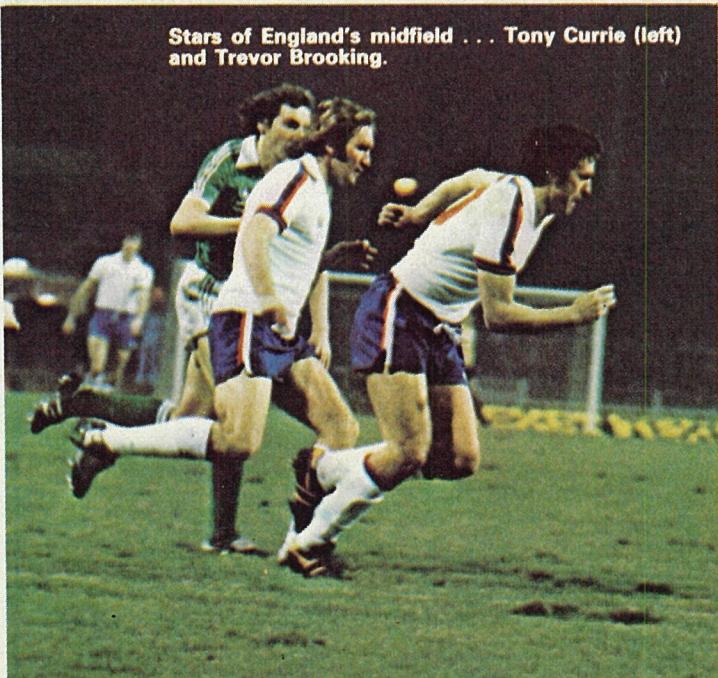
Northern Ireland's best player was Sammy McIlroy of Manchester United.



The goal that sent Ron Greenwood into raptures. Kevin Keegan stoops low to flick on Trevor Brooking's corner (below) and Bob Latchford (above right) is on hand to make it 4-0.



Stars of England's midfield . . . Tony Currie (left) and Trevor Brooking.



IS THIS ENGLAND SIDE TOO OLD?

asks CHRIS DAVIES

NOW the dust has almost settled on the European Championship tie between England and Northern Ireland, we can safely assume two things.

First, bar a miracle, England will be back into big-time international soccer in the Summer of 1980 in the Finals in Italy.

Second, if England are to have any chance in the 1982 World Cup Finals, Ron Greenwood must change his line-up... QUICKLY.

In the past, England have been over-criticised, perhaps, although with Don Revie their football was stereotyped and, at times, boring.

Under Ron Greenwood, England have won back the fans with an exciting brand of attacking soccer — maybe TOO attacking, as too often the defence has been left wanting, but no one can deny Greenwood is doing a good job. One defeat in 13 internationals makes any argument pretty thin. Or does it?

Greenwood's first task was to help England regain their confidence. Mission accomplished. The 1978 World Cup was a lost cause by the time he took over and it certainly wasn't Greenwood's fault England failed to qualify.

But what was Greenwood's second objective... his immediate aim? Was it the 1980 European Championship — or the 1982 World Cup?

His contract expires next year, and few would doubt its renewal will be a mere formality. Yet how important is the European Championship?

Like it or not, the World Cup rules soccer. Football revolves round the World Cup and it is at this level teams are judged. The European Championship, while important in its own right, is second-rate compared with the World Cup. Who remembers that Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia did well in the last European Champion-

ship? More significant is the fact neither were in Argentina.

I like Greenwood's England, but he should be planning NOW for Spain in 1982. It is the next World Cup England must be aiming at, because success in the European Championship and failure — again — in the World Cup would spell disaster.

My pessimism may not seem well-founded... until you look at a few facts and figures. In 1982, all the England players will be three years older and of the side who

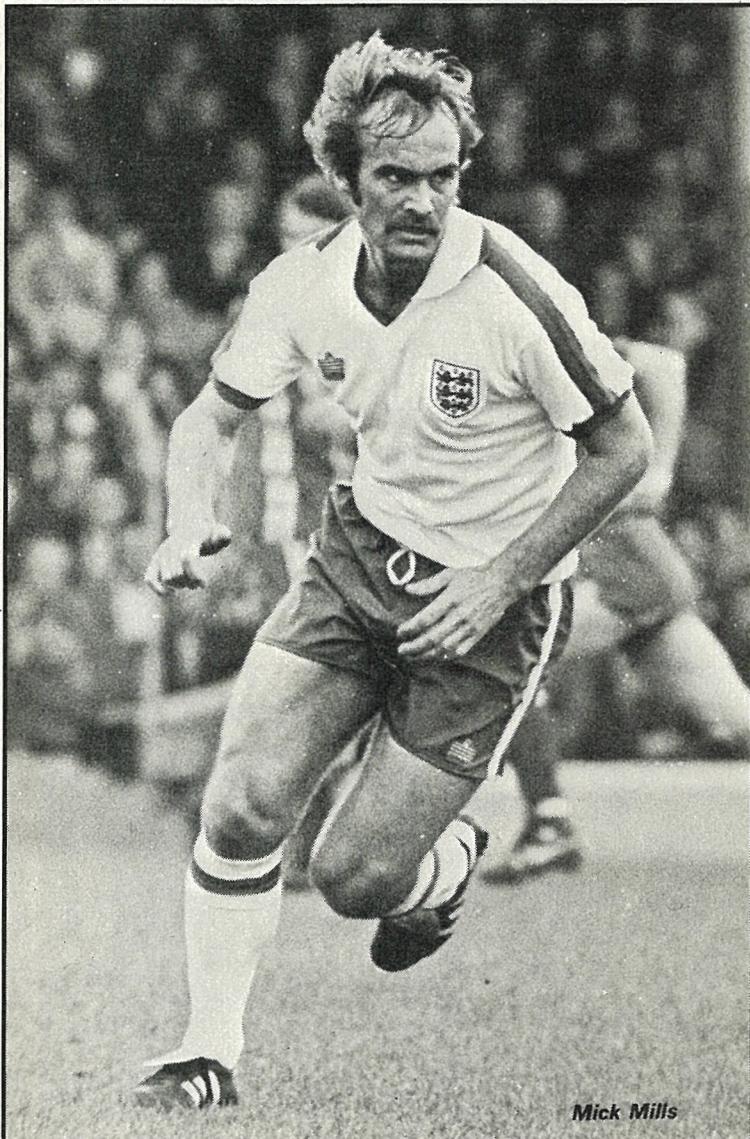
Kevin Keegan will be 31, yet he has so much skill, enthusiasm and heart, it's almost certain if England are in Spain, Mighty Mouse will be one of the tournament's stars.

Everton's Bob Latchford, often criticised, but more often seen scoring, will also be 30 in the not too distant future.

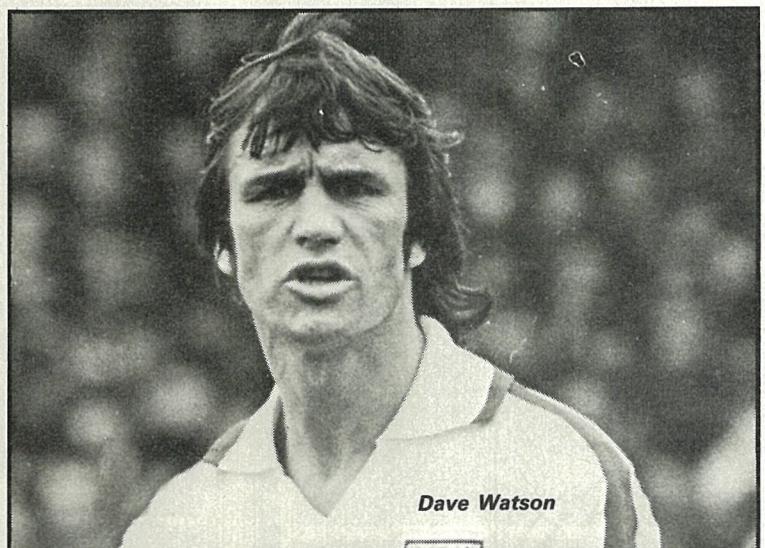
Greenwood reverted to the 'old faithfuls' against Northern Ireland, a decision that was thought unwise, but in the end justified. With a 4-0 win under his belt, it's unlikely the British Championship will see many alterations as they lead up to the all-important game in Bulgaria.

Yet somewhere along the line Greenwood must start to phase out some of the older players. Well as they may be playing now, there is no way the team can stay together for three years and remain as effective.

Every side should have a blend of youth and experience, and I'd



Mick Mills



Dave Watson

beat the Irish at Wembley, no fewer than EIGHT players will be 30 or over by the next World Cup.

You don't have to be a soccer genius to know a side has little chance of winning the World Cup with more than two or three 'golden oldies'.

In 1978, Argentina had just one over-30, Luis Galvan. In 1974, only Wolfgang Overath of West Germany had reached that dreaded age. Brazil, 1970, had Felix and Gerson over 30. The average age of a World Cup-winning side is around 27.

Sansom left-back?

By 1982, both Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton will be in their thirties, although a goalkeeper's age is of less importance.

Will Dave Watson and Emlyn Hughes be at the heart of England's World Cup defence? Both have already celebrated their thirtieth birthdays...

Mick Mills has made a major contribution, but it's a safe wager Crystal Palace's brilliant Kenny Sansom will be England's left-back... as soon as he has the chance to establish himself.

Trevor Brooking is 30, Tony Currie 29 — they'll be 33 and 32 if England reach Spain, surely too old to form the engine-room of the team?

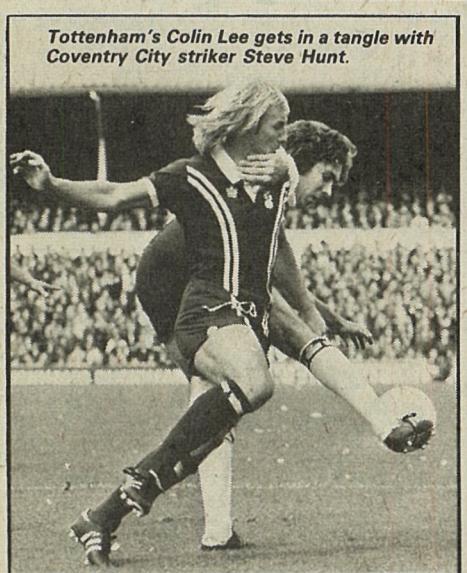
like to see Greenwood giving one or two youngsters their chance, and not just in one game, just as he did Peter Barnes and Steve Coppell last season.

Sansom is a must; Viv Anderson at right-back should be recalled, so should Shilton, after Ray Clemence's unimpressive performance against Northern Ireland. Phil Thompson is more mobile than his Liverpool captain Emlyn Hughes — he's also a few years younger. An ageing defence must be avoided at all costs.

The England Under-21 team has plenty of promising young players, yet too many of England's stars of the future have "stood still" aged around 23, not fulfilling their promise. This is why 1979 is a make-or-break year for Ray Wilkins. If the former Chelsea captain is to be an England player, he must establish himself as a dominant midfield player soon. He must play an outstanding game for his country. It's important. Ray is 22, but his form this season has been poor so let's hope he can produce the goods.

Tony Woodcock has virtually stopped scoring, while Trevor Francis has had other things on his mind.

Even so, Greenwood must have at least one eye on the 1982 World Cup and the present side is, quite simply, too old to be kept together much longer.



In a Tangle...



Tottenham's Colin Lee gets in a tangle with Coventry City striker Steve Hunt.

MAIN PICTURE ... Peter Shilton of Nottingham Forest in acrobatic action during their 0-0 draw at Coventry. RIGHT ... John Duncan (number nine), Derby County striker, causes havoc in West Brom's defence, challenged by Alistair Robertson (right).

Bolton's Alan Gowling rides a sliding tackle by Terry Butcher of Ipswich.

Southend United defenders keep their feet in icy conditions during their F.A. Cup-tie against Liverpool.

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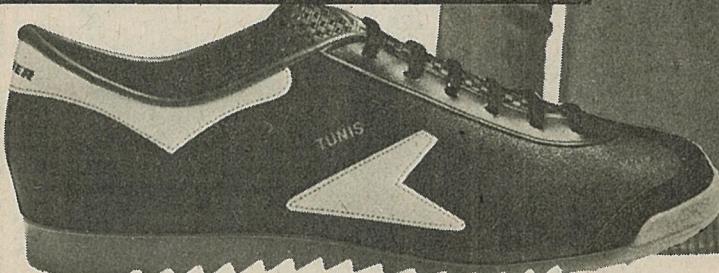
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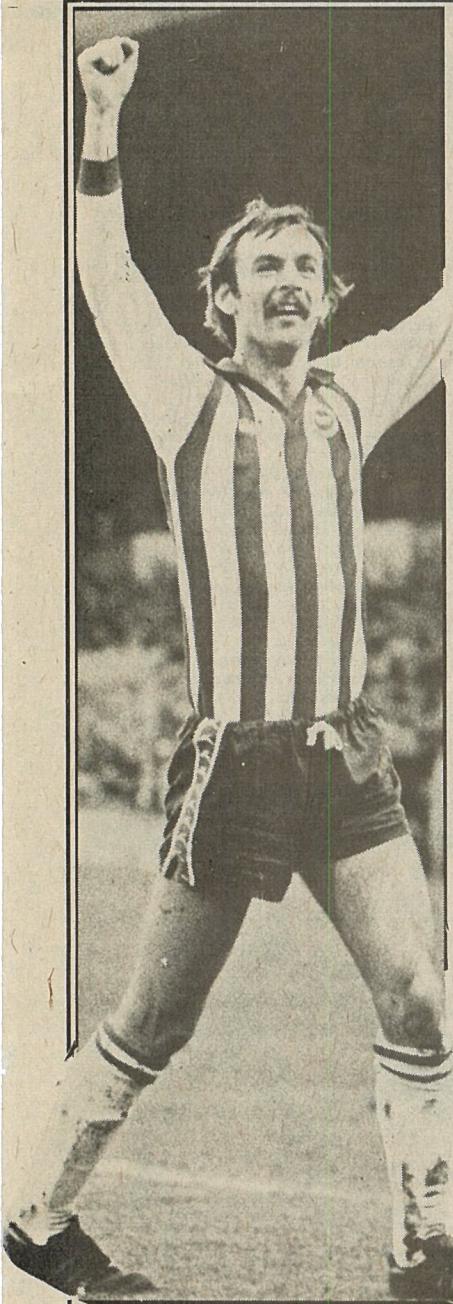
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Why MALCOLM POSKETT asked Brighton for a transfer...

"My strengths are my control on the deck, going past people to get into shooting positions."

Incredibly, Poskett is in only his second full season of League football. Having been turned down by Jack Charlton at Middlesbrough as a youngster, he got a job as a plater and played part-time for Whitby.

But he didn't hesitate when he got another chance of League football in the 1976-77 season — even though the club after him were struggling Hartlepool.

Poskett decided to give himself two years to make the grade.

His career was made, he says, by Hartlepool manager Billy Horner. "When I first went there I was a lazy player. At Whitby, I just used to hang around goal and wait for the ball to come to me. But Billy made me work hard — almost to the point of exhaustion sometimes. And he told me I'd play in the First Division one day."

If Brighton's goal record had been a little better, Poskett would be there now. But they missed out last season because Tottenham had a slightly better margin, though the teams finished level on points.

Temporary

Even so, Poskett thinks it will turn out to be only a temporary setback. He thinks this season, Brighton will prove good enough for promotion.

"I think we're as good as anybody in the Second Division, although it's so close, any of ten teams could go up. There's been no outstanding side so far, but I reckon Palace will make it.

"I just want to keep banging the goals in, so that I stay in the Brighton side. With three of us competing for the two places, I never believe I'm in the side until I pull the shirt over my head on Saturday afternoon.

"I've set myself a target of 20 goals this season. I got 16 in the League last season — ten at Hartlepool and six in 11 full games at Brighton.

"So I don't think 20 should be beyond me. And if the other front lads get the same, we'll be pretty sure of a place in Division One."

MALCOLM Poskett's brilliant goalscoring has been one of the most important reasons for Brighton's rise up the Second Division table after a poor start to the season.

Yet earlier this term, the £60,000 striker had wanted to leave the Goldstone Ground.

He explains: "I felt I was playing well enough to be in the first team, but I wasn't getting a chance. Peter Ward and Teddy Maybank had the two striking roles and I couldn't see how I was going to get into the team.

"The boss, you see, doesn't think it works for all three of us to play in the same side. And I couldn't see either of the other two being dropped.

"I asked for a transfer and I was actually on the list for a few weeks. But then Alan Mullery asked me to withdraw my request and a short time afterwards, I was in the first team.

"I don't really mind who I play alongside in the forward line, but I do seem to get on particularly well with Teddy Maybank. I prefer playing with a big target man up-front. It's the way I used to play at Hartlepool.

ERNIE Moss has come home — with hopes that will mean the end of an injury nightmare that threatened his whole soccer career.

A £30,000 New Year deal saw the 29-year-old striker leave Third Division Mansfield Town for the club he joined virtually straight from school, Chesterfield.

And Moss, once one of the most feared forwards in the lower Divisions, is certain that he can recapture the sharp-shooting form that won him Championship medals with both the Saltergate club and The Stags.

Certainly he needs a change of luck after a horrid 1978 in which he barely kicked a ball in anger.

Moss's nightmare started in the pre-Christmas build-up last season. Everything was going well. Mansfield had been promoted to the Second Division for the first time in the club's 101 year history

though it is always at the back of your mind that it might be the end you have to fight through. I've always had character and that is what pulled me through. I can never honestly say there was a stage when I thought it would be over — you don't.

"The worst moment was when I was starting again and the muscles seized up. Maybe I had started a little too soon — but that was the worst moment because I then realised that it could still go either way."

Even when he had recovered Ernie found it difficult to slot back into his scoring ways and sees the move back to Chesterfield as the ideal way to pick up the pieces.

"The last year is best forgotten," he says, "and a change of club should help me. I started at Chesterfield and both my parents and my wife's parents live that way. So it's like going home for me.

...and ERNIE MOSS wants to forget 1978

and during those early games the Chesterfield-born Moss had struck up a marvellous partnership with Dave Syrett.

Between them they netted 13 times in the club's first 15 Second Division games and with ex-Ipswich Town Peter Morris at the helm The Stags looked capable of establishing themselves as a senior club.

Then Moss was forced to quit playing with a hip injury — and once he went out of the side Mansfield's form slumped. In the next 12 games they took only four points and plunged into a relegation battle they could never escape.

Admits Moss: "I don't know if it was because I was injured — but when I was playing we were quite comfortably placed and when I went out things changed."

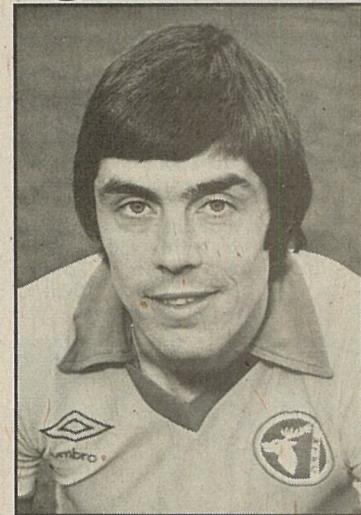
Moss's problem was diagnosed as an unstable pelvis and specialists gave him two options. He could either rest for six months in the hope that things would heal (with no guarantee) or go into hospital for an operation.

He chose the latter and spent the Christmas of 1977 in hospital, coming out a few days before the New Year. Surgeons fused a piece of bone into the pelvis and for the next ten months Ernie fought a desperate fight to return to League soccer.

It was a lonely struggle and always there was the danger that his soccer career — let alone his goalscoring days — would be over. The months of anguish were to start.

"I was on crutches for about three months until the fusion of the bone had been completed," recalls Ernie. "I trained on my own throughout the Summer and had a few little setbacks. Come September and I was named as sub against Sheffield Wednesday after a couple of reserve games. I got on and then started playing for Mansfield's first team again and scored a couple of goals. But really my main concern was getting through a game."

"I had been told by specialists that it could go either way. Even



"I've no fitness worries now and I like the set-up. Before I left Chesterfield to go to Peterborough I had scored 94 League goals. So now my first target is to reach the century before the end of the season. Then I'd like to get another Championship medal."

"I was at Saltergate and scored 20 goals when we won the Fourth Division Championship in 1969-70; I was at Mansfield and got 13 goals when we won the 1976-77 Third Division Championship. Now it would be nice to try and help Chesterfield get into the Second Division!"

"We are quite handily placed and we've got a very good squad of players for a Third Division side."

"With a few more goals we would have been up near the top. It will take me a few games to settle down — when I came on as sub against Exeter for my first game — I'd only been back two days and we hadn't even practised set moves together."

"From what I've seen we have lacked a big target man up-front — I hope I'll help solve that and even if I don't score goals myself I'd like to think I can help lads like Rod Fern get a few. It's good to be back home . . ."

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. £3 for the Star letter — £1.50 for every other letter published. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from B. Ellis of Newark, Notts, who wins our Special Prize of £3. He writes:

MORE GOALS WITH WITHE?

NOTTINGHAM Forest are missing Peter Withe (below) desperately. No one appreciated his value and he was often given 'stick' by the club's so-called supporters. In his two years with Forest he was one of the main reasons for their success, scoring vital goals and creating space for team-mates.

Cloughie will never admit that selling Withe was a mistake, but his interest in other strikers, notably £1 million Trevor Francis, proves he is missing Withe's goal-power.

The problem with Brian Clough is that he has too many favourite players. Last season, after scoring 11 goals in his first 11 games, Withe failed to score in the next seven and was verbally blasted by his manager.

Yet Tony Woodcock has played absolute rubbish this season with no threat of the axe from Clough. Now, it appears Martin O'Neill is the new Cloughie scapegoat.



Forest have certainly struggled to score goals this time round, but with Clough's record it is difficult to argue against his policies. The end of the season will be the time to pass judgment.

Pen-Pal

I'm a 17-year-old Italian boy, I support Juventus and I'd like to correspond with an Ipswich Town supporter.

CHIUSANO CLAUDIO,
VIA CAOUR 41,
ALPIGNANO (70) 10091,
ITALY.

Southern Bias

If ever evidence was needed of the media's complete preoccupation with football South of the country — your Second Division team was a perfect example. Of the 11 players chosen, eight were from London clubs, if you count Luton, which is near enough.

I feel sure Midlands and Northern readers could compose a side which would be good enough to see off your Southerners. I'd have picked just Wallington and Samsom from your team.

T. CAULKIN,
WALSALL.

As I write, of the top ten teams in Division Two, five are from London — plus Brighton. And, of course, whoever picks such a team will immediately have thousands of fans disagreeing with him. As Trevor Brooking is one of Europe's best schemers, and Mike Flanagan a proven goalscorer in Division Two surely few doubt their inclusion? Maybe bias isn't exclusively a 'Southern disease'.

Nice Guy Lawrie

WHILE watching a television interview with Lawrie McMenemy, my admiration for the Southampton boss increased.

He has a rare mixture of integrity, humour and humility which in the rat race of soccer is rare.

Long may he retain these qualities for Lawrie is head and shoulders above the rest — and I'm not just talking about his height.

M. MARTIN,
CLARKSTON.

What makes Lawrie even more 'unusual' is that he's successful... too often nice guys finish second.

Dreams

WE just finished my military service. At weekends my friends and I had to stay at base on guard duties and our only comfort was the B.B.C. World Service and our weekly issue of SHOOT!, which was passed around and looked like a rag after we'd all read it! The walls at base are covered with your posters and after training — a six-mile run with full equipment — we sat dreaming (amongst other things) of being at Anfield or Old Trafford. It really helped us through three hard years.

KEHUDA REDLICH,
HAIFA,
ISRAEL.

Glad we could be of help! Those people who knock English football don't realise how popular it is with fans all over the world.

WORLDWIDE

COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES

THERE was a strange incident in El Salvador (Central America) when at half-time in the promotion battle between Roble and Once Lobos (translation Eleven Wolves!), a spectator ran on to the pitch and started firing a shotgun left, right and centre. By the time he ran out of ammunition three people had been wounded...

NICE misprint in DE NIEUWE GAZET, a local paper in Antwerp. In an article about veterans, it said: "... one of the best players of Bristol City is Norman Hunter, who is 85-years-old." And still bitin' legs!

THE Germans don't encourage fans to run on to pitches, and after a police dog had made its presence felt, I doubt whether this young supporter will repeat his action. I'm not in favour of dogs being used too freely, as they can't tell a thug from a genuine fan, but they would deter our hooligans from running on to the pitch... I think.



BRAZIL STAR FIT AGAIN

REINALDO, who played unsuccessfully for Brazil in the World Cup (and was replaced after two games by Roberto) due to knee problems, is back in football and a transfer seems likely from his present club, Atlético Mineiro, to Flamengo.

Only 22-years-old, Reinaldo had played for the last two years without any of the four cartilages in his knees, and after the

Marinho in the money

LEFT full-back Marinho, now of the Cosmos, will probably make more money on the side, endorsing various products. Marinho was bought from Fluminense on the advice of Pele, who thinks he may be a big star.

Most famous players who sign with Cosmos are already old, but Marinho is only 26 and I think he will come back from Cosmos to play for Brazil in the next World Cup in Spain in '82. Also, he is a good looking, fun-loving, extrovert boy, whose personality will make him a favourite of the crowds and advertisers. I think he could make even more money endorsing products than playing.

But Marinho, who is not taking any chances, also took his lawyer with him, to make sure he gets as much money as possible from Cosmos, apart from free accommodations for himself and his family (a son and a wife who is expecting another baby) and four free New York-Rio-New York tickets every year.

ARGENTINES IN TROUBLE

ARGENTINIAN World Cup star Daniel Bertoni is having a torrid time in Spain this season. His form has been a disappointment to the fans in Seville and, after being fined £235 by the club for "indiscipline", the 23-year-old winger was sent off during Sevilla's 2-5 defeat in Valencia for insulting the referee — which earned him a three-match suspension.

Another Argentinian "exile" in Spain, Barcelona's Juan Carlos Heredia, was also given marching orders after elbowing Real Sociedad defender Gaztelu in the face during a League match in San Sebastian. Barcelona were already handicapped by the absence of Austrian striker Hans Krankl, and Heredia's departure left the side with a total lack of striking-power. Real Sociedad went on to win 2-0.

And a third Argentinian, Ribilzi, has also been suspended for two weeks by Spanish Second Division club Coruna. The Boca Juniors midfielder started a punch-up when a team-mate caught him with a late tackle during a training session.

NEWS FLASHES

Jean-Marie Pfaff, goalkeeper of SK Beieren and the national team, was named as Belgian Footballer of the Year, receiving the Golden Boot award. Second was René van der Eycken (FC Bruges) with Anderlecht's Robbie Rensenbrink third.

Jose Angel Iribar, for many years goalkeeper of Athletic Bilbao, now 36, with 49 caps, has decided to stand in the forthcoming elections for a place in Spain's new senate.

Rivelino, now playing in Saudi Arabia, is using the fantastic salary he is earning to buy a chain of 30 petrol stations in Brazil.

780,000 spectators watched the first half of the First Division programme in Czechoslovakia, with the biggest crowd, just over 25,000 at a game between Sparta (Prague)



France's Bossis chases Causio of Italy during the 1978 World Cup Finals.

Why France MUST score goals

THIS week (February 25th) France desperately try to pick the threads of their European Championship campaign by hammering a hatful of goals past Luxembourg. And there are more than just the two points at stake. After the disappointing home draw against Sweden and a meagre 3-1 away win against Luxembourg, French fans and critics are beginning to wonder if it's time for a change of manager.

So, although long-serving Michel Hidalgo is unlikely to get the chop before the vital match in Czechoslovakia in April, a poor performance against Luxembourg would drag him uncomfortably closer to the guillotine . . .

Hidalgo, himself, pinpoints several reasons behind France's strange decline since they made such a good impression in Argentina. "We've had a run of injuries to key players, such as Platini, and others simply haven't been on form. I'm trying to build a good, internationally competitive squad of 25 players and I've been experi-

menting. You have to have patience to do this sort of thing."

The critics agree that Hidalgo has been unlucky with injuries, but feel that he's made too many changes. The team which travelled to the World Cup was a young side, and many believe it should have been left to develop.

"They're right, perhaps there have been too many changes, but I want to see as many players as possible. As for the World Cup team — well, a lot of them look very jaded this season. I'm hoping that the long winter break which League clubs are having this year will help them recover their appetite for the game."

The French League programme has been arranged this season with a view to giving Hidalgo a maximum amount of time to prepare his team. But, even so, the side seems to have lost a lot of its identity and character through the continuous chopping and changing.

"This was inevitable, I'm afraid. As I said, a lot of players have lost

THE authorities in Spain have decided to change the result of a regional game between Celta and Ourense because the referee admitted in his match report that he'd been so concerned for his personal safety that he gave the home team a non-existent penalty.

That gave Celta a 2-1 win, but the F.A. has decided to "cancel" the penalty and has recorded a 1-1 draw. They've also suspended the "crooked-but-honest" referee for six weeks and fined Celta £350.

and Banik Ostrava, the Champions. Forty two players were sent-off in the Autumn campaign with 178 yellow cards, while of 30 penalties given, 24 were scored from.

Atlético Madrid's recent 4-0 League win against Celta wasn't a surprise for anyone in Spain. Poor old Celta have now picked up just two draws in 30 visits to Atlético's Vicente Calderón stadium (both 0-0) and in their 28 defeats they've scored 23 goals and conceded 85 — so this year's 4-0 defeat was just "average"!

When Juventus lost 1-0 to AS Roma in Rome few people were surprised. In the past three seasons, Juve have lost just one game each season . . . each time in Rome, against either Roma or Lazio.

"We have too few good referees in France," say the critics — and they propose importing officials from neighbouring countries each week-end.

Gyula Lorant, the Hungarian coach, proved unpopular with Bayern Munich players and withdrew before the Xmas

break with the excuse that he needed a cartilage operation. His Hungarian deputy, Pal Csernai, took over, and he is paid only £1,500 a month which is well below the going rate in West Germany. To make up for this, Bayern president, Wilhelm Neudecker offered Csernai £500 win bonuses.

Artemio Franchi, Italian chairman of U.E.F.A., was recently elected chairman of the Italian F.A., winning 3,050 of the 3,085 votes.

Manfred Dubski, on loan to MSV Duisburg from Schalke 04, scored MSV's winner in the game against . . . Schalke.

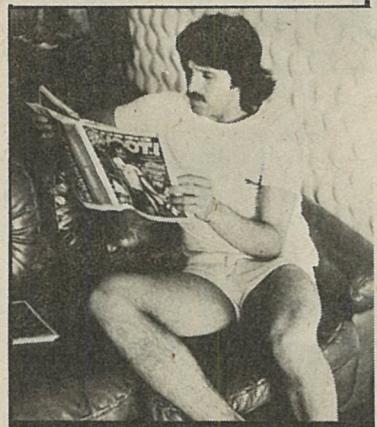
At the end of the season Italian club Fiorentina will tour Australia, playing six games in 18 days.

The West German Bundesliga Disciplinary committee is very hot on players sent-off and Hans-Peter Briegl, given orders during the Cup game with Ludwigshafen, will miss the matches of League leaders 1FC Kaiserslautern for eight weeks.

form this season and a lot of promising players haven't lived up to their promise. Really, only three of the team which qualified for Argentina have been playing regularly — Janvion, Six and Rocheteau — so the personality of the team has changed radically. I've been selecting five Strasbourg players as the basis of the team to try and compensate for this. They know each other inside-out, and I'm hoping they'll bind the team into a more effective unit."

League leaders Strasbourg are the revelation of the season, but looking at the way French clubs have been swept completely out of European competitions, one can only wonder about the quality of their club football.

"I think the quality is reasonably high, and improving all the time. French football covers more or less



River Plate and Argentina centre-forward Leopoldo Luque at home in Buenos Aires . . . with his favourite weekly soccer magazine.

"The Volcano" erupts

VALENCIA manager Marcel Domingo is having a wretched season. Apart from taking the blame for the team's poor form, he's also been banned by U.E.F.A. following some typically explosive comments after Valencia's 3-1 U.E.F.A. Cup exit against West Brom.

After the 1-1 draw in Valencia, Domingo (nicknamed "The Volcano") said that Swiss referee Herr Galler would "do a better job planting mushrooms in Zurich," and after the return leg at The Hawthorns he began bitter attack on the referee (Frenchman Robert Wurtz) by saying "I'm French, but if that's an example of French refereeing, then I'm ashamed of my nationality."

Since then, the likeable 'character' has steadfastly refused to speak to anyone after matches . . .

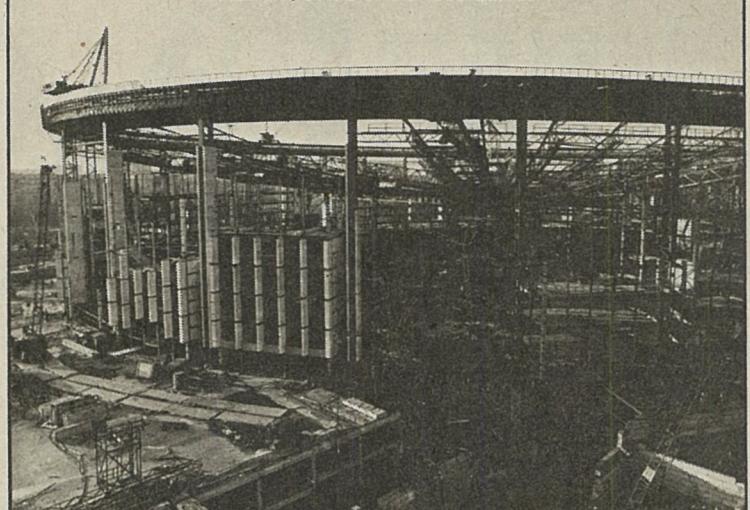
CUP SENSATIONS

SPANISH Second Division leaders Real Valladolid have their sights firmly set on promotion this season, so when they were drawn against First Division Espanyol in the Third Round of the Spanish Cup, manager Pachin said: "That suits us fine. We want good takings on the gate and to be knocked out as soon as possible so that we can concentrate on the League."

Valladolid got the cash they wanted when a capacity crowd watched them draw the first-leg 1-1 and Pachin then despatched the youth side "to be knocked out gracefully" in the return leg. Valladolid won 2-1!

The other Cup surprise was the elimination of title-chasing Sporting Gijón by Second Division Cádiz, while Real Madrid won their 'crunch' local derby against Atlético by the skin of their teeth. Both matches ended as draws, but Real scraped home on penalties when 'keeper García Remón saved spot-kicks from Leivinha and Rubén Cano.

Work is progressing well on the Moscow Olympic Stadium, scene of the 1980 Games.



'No plans to retire yet'

SHOOT: Dino, you're 37, you have had a great career, you're still playing for Juventus and Italy... how much longer can you keep playing?

ZOFF: I've never set myself a limit, saying I'll retire when I'm a certain age. I keep myself fit and I'll play as long as I'm picked. To be honest, I dare not think about NOT playing.

SHOOT: Even allowing for the fact goalkeepers have longer careers than outfield players, 37 is a remarkable age to still be at the top.

ZOFF: You may not know, but in Italy there are two goalkeepers even older than me, both in the First Division as well. They are Albertosi of AC Milan and Pizziaballa of Atalanta. Age doesn't really come into it; it's how good are you.

SHOOT: You've had more than 17 years in first-class football. Why did you become a goalkeeper initially?

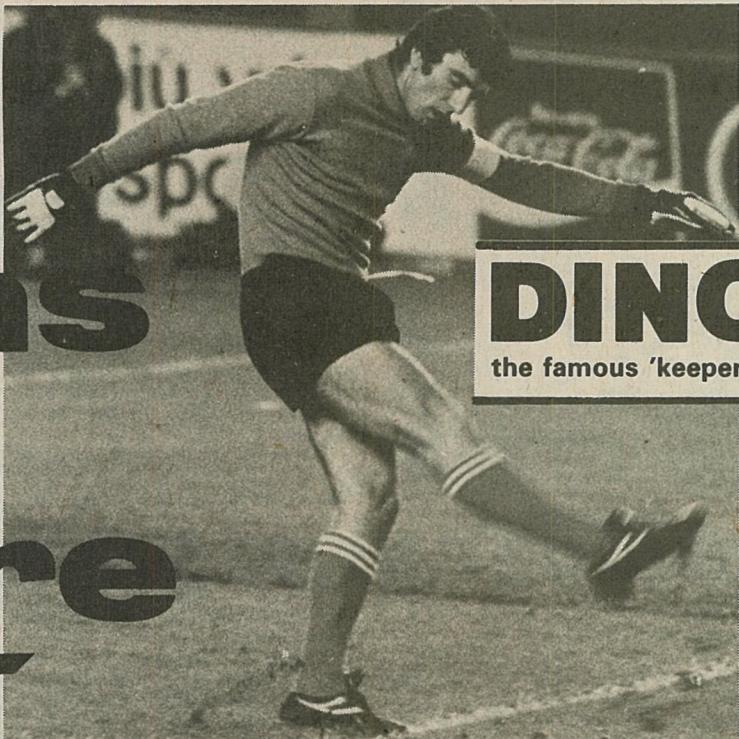
ZOFF: I started to play football simply because I loved the game. I played for the Parish Church and was a goalkeeper even as a little boy, and I've been there ever since.

SHOOT: When you began playing, did you ever think you'd be as successful as you have been?

ZOFF: Naturally, I dreamt of becoming famous, like every young lad, and all I can say is my dream came true.

SHOOT: Did you ever model your style on any goalkeeper?

ZOFF: As a youngster, the only top goalies I saw were on television and very seldom at that. I read the soccer reports, but it was difficult to model myself on anyone as I



DINO ZOFF

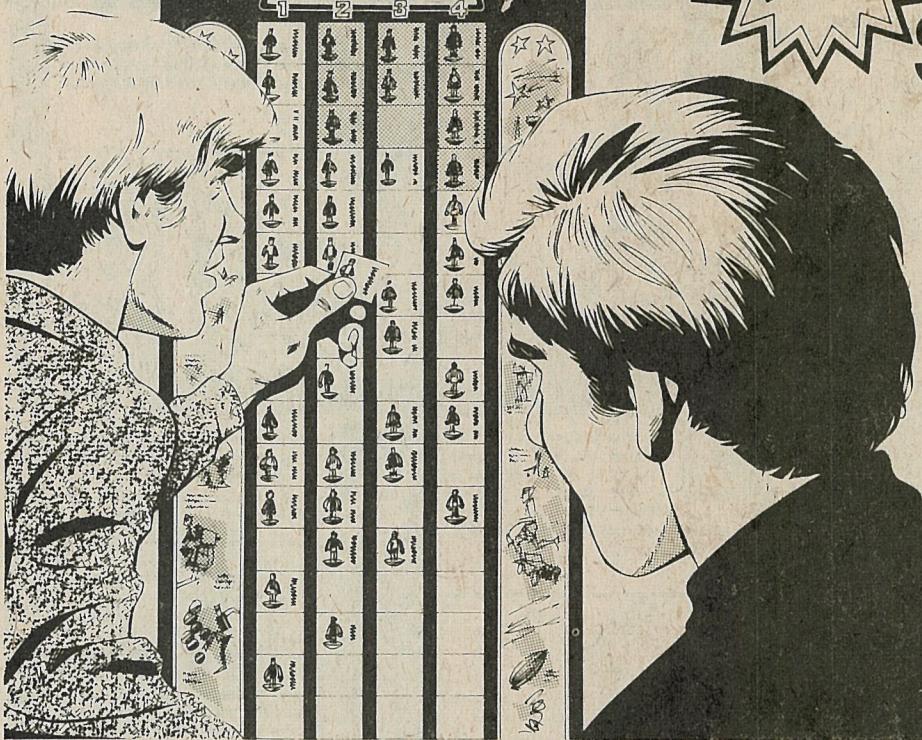
the famous 'keeper with Juventus and Italy

ZOFF: I became a professional with Udinese, who were a successful club but on the way down. Then I moved to Mantova and under Edmondo Fabbri, a very good manager, I learned a lot. From there, I went to Naples who were eager for success, but never quite able to achieve it. I suppose signing for Juventus was the highlight. Joining them — you can't go higher. All you hope to do is to win something! I've been lucky that all my moves helped to further my career.



Paolo Rossi, the new Italian superstar, on top against Holland in Argentina.

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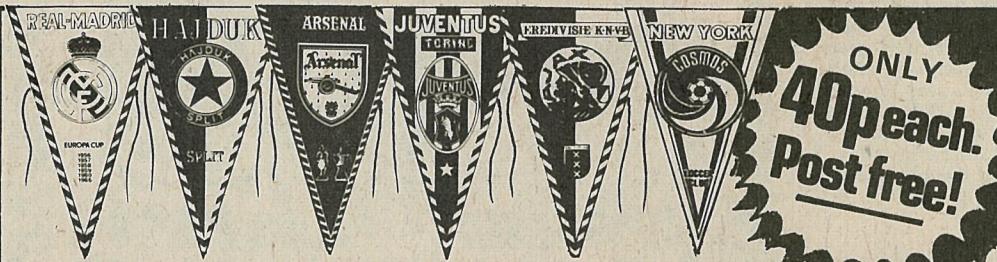
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PETER HOLTON (F.41)

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ROMFORD, ESSEX, RM3 0PB.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Queens Park Rangers

A 13-GROUND 'RECORD'

NO other club in the Football League has played on more home grounds than Queens Park Rangers. Counting the one home game they played at Highbury on March 1, 1930, Rangers have had 13 different grounds!

The game at Highbury was played when Rangers had their ground at Loftus Road closed by the F.A., because of crowd trouble. Arsenal lent Rangers their stadium and Q.P.R. played Coventry in a Third Division (South) match, watched by a crowd of 30,000.

The club was formed in 1885, although some records say it was a year later, when St. Jude's Institute amalgamated with Christchurch Rangers, a boys' club.

The club claimed its present name in 1887 because most of the team came from the district of Queen's Park.

They entered the F.A. Cup for the first time in 1899-1900 but were knocked out in the Second Round by Millwall, who won 2-0.

Even poorer than the club's League record is their performance

in the F.A. Cup. Only six times have Rangers reached the Sixth Round (or equivalent) that being in 1910, 1914, 1923, 1948, 1970 and 1974.

Rangers were elected to the Southern League after turning professional in 1898 and twice winning the Southern League Championship.

In 1920 they were elected to the Third Division (South) and when World War Two stopped football in 1939 Rangers were still there after 19 seasons.

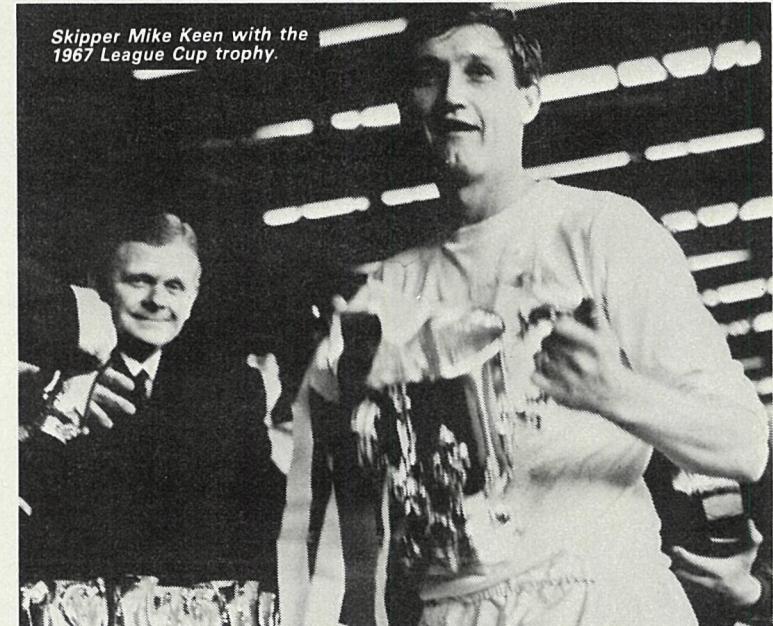
The only highlights being a top place of third in the 1920-21, 1929-30 and 1937-38 seasons. Not that it stopped the club having several fine players in its ranks.

Forward Tom Cheetham scored 35 League goals in only 34 games in the 1935-36 season and won himself a place in that year's international trial.

Before Cheetham there had been George Goddard who set up both the Rangers goalscoring records.

His 37 goals in Division Three (South) in 1929-30 is the top score in a season for the club and his 172

Skipper Mike Keen with the 1967 League Cup trophy.



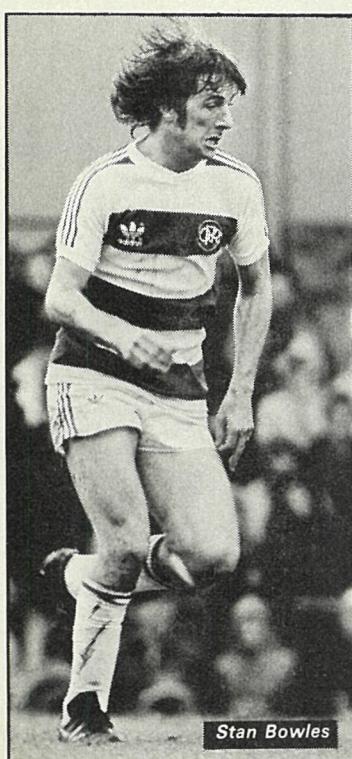
TOP LEAGUE SCORERS

1973-74	Stan Bowles	19
1974-75	Don Givens	16
1975-76	Don Givens	13
1976-77	Don Givens	10
1977-78	Peter Eastoe and Stan Bowles	6

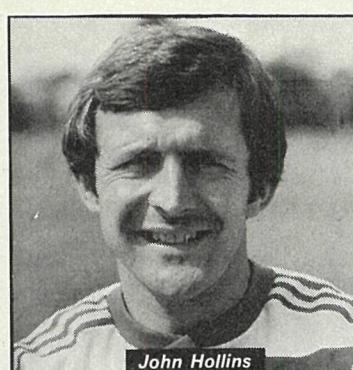
LEAGUE FIXTURES

Aug	Opponents	Result	Venue
19	Liverpool	1-2	A
22	W.B.A.	0-1	H
26	Nottm. Forest	0-0	H
Sept			
2	Arsenal	1-5	A
9	Man. Utd.	1-1	H
16	Middlesbrough	2-0	A
23	Aston Villa	1-0	H
30	Wolves	0-1	A
Oct			
7	Bristol C	1-0	H
14	Southampton	1-1	A
21	Everton	1-1	H
28	Ipswich T	1-2	A
Nov			
4	Chelsea	0-0	H
11	Liverpool	1-3	H
18	Nottm. Forest	0-0	A
25	Derby Co.	1-2	A
Dec			
2	Bolton W	1-3	H
9	Coventry C.	0-1	A
16	Man. City	2-1	H
26	Tottenham	2-2	H
30	Leeds U.	1-4	H
Jan			
20	Middlesbrough	1-1	H
31	Norwich C.	1-1	A
Feb			
10	Wolves	3-3	H
13	Arsenal	1-2	H
17	Bristol C		A
21	Man. Utd.		A
24	Southampton		H
Mar			
3	Everton		A
10	Ipswich T		H
17	Chelsea		A
24	W.B.A.		A
31	Derby Co.		H
Apr			
7	Bolton W		A
9	Birmingham C		H
13	Norwich C.		A
14	Tottenham		A
21	Man. City		A
28	Coventry C.		A
May			
5	Leeds U.		A

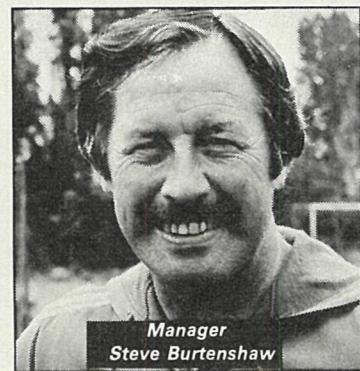
To be arranged Birmingham (A) and Aston Villa (A)
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Stan Bowles



John Hollins



Manager
Steve Burtnshaw

Continued on page 26

QUEENS PARK



BACK ROW (left to right): Don Shanks, Stephen Perkins, Ernie Howe, Phil Parkes, Steve Jones, Billy Hamilton, Tommy Cunningham, Derek Richardson, Rachid Harkouk, Stan Bowles, David Clement.

ORK RANGERS



FRONT ROW: Ron Abbott, Paul Goddard, Ian Gillard, John Hollins, Leighton James (now Burnley), Barry Wallace, Paul McGee, Peter Eastoe.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED

PEN PICTURES

(L.App:— League Appearances, G:— Goals, S:— Substitutes. All records to the end of the 1977-78 season)

RON ABBOTT: Back-four player who is a product of the Youth system. Signed professional in July, 1971. Born London. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 11.0. L.App:— 32 and 12 sub. G:— 4.

STAN BOWLES: English international signed from Carlisle United in September, 1972, for £110,000. Stan is one of the finest ball players in the game and can win a game on his own. Born Manchester. Ht. 5.11. Wt. 11.4. L.App:— Man. City 15 and 2 sub, Bury 5, Crewe 51, Carlisle 33, Q.P.R. 209. G:— Man. City 2, Crewe 18, Carlisle 12, Q.P.R. 67.

MARTYN BUSBY: Midfield player who began his League career with Rangers before joining Notts. County. Re-signed for Rangers in September, 1978. Born Slough. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 12.4. L.App:— Notts. Co.



Rachid Harkouk (above) was signed from Crystal Palace. Defender Glenn Roeder (below).



Ernie Howe



Peter Eastoe

37, Portsmouth (loan) 6 and 1 sub, Q.P.R. (two spells) 99. G:— Notts. Co. 4, Q.P.R. 9.

DAVE CLEMENT: Defender and long-serving player who signed professional in July, 1965. Has won five full England caps. Born London. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 11.5. L.App:— 374 and 3 sub. G:— 21.

PETER EASTOE: Striker and joint-top scorer with Bowles last season on six goals. Signed from Swindon Town for £80,000 in March, 1976. Born Tamworth. Ht. 5.10. Wt. 11.3. L.App:— Wolves 4 and 2 sub, Swindon 91, Q.P.R. 43 and 3 sub. G:— Swindon 43, Q.P.R. 12.

GERRY FRANCIS: Talented mid-

fielder who has been most unlucky with injuries. Former England skipper with 12 full caps. Born London. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 10.8 L.App:— 264. G:— 51.

IAN GILLARD: Defender signed professional in October, 1968, and forms a fine full-back partnership with Clement. Has won three England caps. Born London. Ht. 6.0½. Wt. 12.0. L.App:— 249 and 3 sub. G:— 6.

PAUL GODDARD: Young striker signed professional in July, 1977. League debut as sub v Arsenal on April 11th, 1978, and scored in his first full League appearance v Coventry four days later. Born Har-

lington. Ht. 5.8½. Wt. 11.4. L.App:— 3 and 4 sub. G:— 1.

BILLY HAMILTON: Exciting young striker signed from Linfield. League debut as sub v Bolton on December 2nd, 1978, and scored twice as a sub two weeks later to beat Man. City 2-1. Full N. Ireland international. Born Belfast. Ht. 6.1½. Wt. 12.0.

JOHN HOLLINS: One of the best known players in the game. Signed from Chelsea in July, 1975, for £80,000 and is the team captain. One full cap v Spain in 1967. Born Guildford. Ht. 5.8. Wt. 11.7. L.App:— Chelsea 436, Q.P.R. 107 and 3 sub. G:— Chelsea 47, Q.P.R. 5.

ERNIE HOWE: Cost a large fee when signed from Fulham in December, 1977. Central-defender. Born London. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 12.12. L.App:— Fulham 68 and 2 sub, Q.P.R. 23. G:— Fulham 10, Q.P.R. 1.

RACHID HARKOUK: Striker signed in the summer of 1978 for a six figure fee from Crystal Palace. Born London. Ht. 6.0. Wt. 12.4. L.App:— C. Palace 51 and 3 sub. G:— 21.

PAUL McGEE: Striker signed from Irish club Sligo Rovers in November, 1977. Republic of Ireland international. Born Sligo. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 11.7. L.App:— 13 and 4 sub. G:— 4.

PHIL PARKES: Goalkeeper with a full England cap signed from Walsall for a bargain £15,000 in June, 1970. Born Sedgeley. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 14.0. L.App:— Walsall 52, Q.P.R. 320.

DEREK RICHARDSON: Goalkeeper who has proved a capable deputy for Phil Parkes since signing from Chelsea. Born London. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 14.4. L.App:— Q.P.R. 13.

GLENN ROEDER: Midfielder or defender signed from Orient for £250,000. Toured the Far East and New Zealand with the England 'B' side in the summer of 1978. Born Woodford. Ht. 6.1. Wt. 12.4½. L.App:— Orient 107 and 8 sub. G:— 4.

DON SHANKS: Defender signed from Luton Town in November, 1974, for £30,000. Born London. Ht. 5.9. Wt. 10.8. L.App:— Luton 89 and 1 sub, Q.P.R. 56 and 4 sub. G:— Luton 2, Q.P.R. 3.



IN AN UNHAPPY POSITION

IF it is the proud boast of directors that attractive football will always bring in the supporters regardless of your position in the League, then Rangers have disproved it.

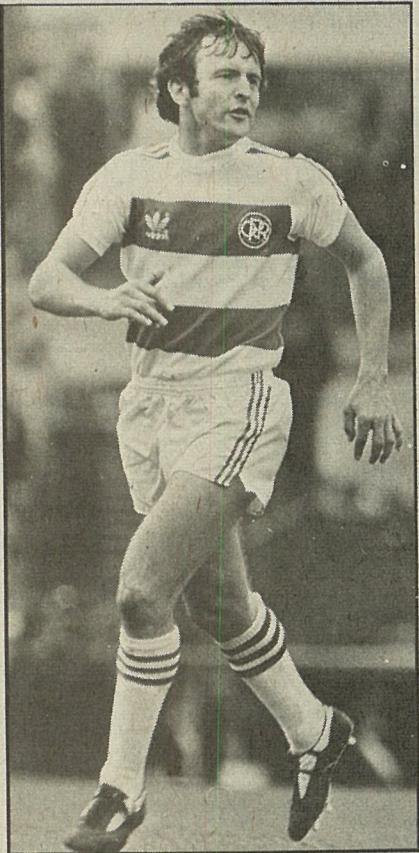
The 9,899 attendance for the home match with Middlesbrough on January 20 this season was the lowest ever First Division gate at South Africa Road. Even those fans were leaving before the finish in frustration over their team's display.

It is hard to put a finger on Rangers' problem. They splashed out £250,000 in the summer for Glenn Roeder, and then delayed his entry into the First Division. Rangers signed Rachid Harkouk from Crystal Palace and up to the Middlesbrough game he had only scored three goals in 17 first team appearances.

Injuries have not helped Rangers, but it is not a happy situation for the club as they hover just above the bottom three in the First Division.

IN NEXT WEEK'S SUPER SHOOT!

Colour: Bristol City v. Man. City; Peter Shilton (Nottingham Forest); John Duncan (Derby County); Geoff Palmer (Wolves); Paul Mariner (Ipswich Town); Focus on Kenny Sansom (Crystal Palace) and Leeds United Team group.



Features: Following the transfer of Trevor Francis for £1 million, we estimate the value of Britain's other top players + SHOOT previews vital European Quarter-Final ties — Forest v. Zurich . . . West Brom v. Red Star . . . Man. City v. Borussia Monchengladbach . . . Ipswich v. Barcelona . . . Rangers v. Cologne + Steve Fox (Wrexham) + Micky Burns (Middlesbrough) + John Hollins (above, Q.P.R.) + Kevin Bond (Norwich City) + Teddy Maybank (Brighton) + Dick Tydeman (Charlton) + Bob Hatton (Luton) + Club Spotlight on Leeds + News and comments from Scotland + Big Match Crosstalk Aston Villa v. Birmingham City + Top referee Clive Thomas talks about the problems of calling off games.

Also star-writers Gordon McQueen, Ray Clemence, Andy Gray and Derek Johnstone and all your other usual favourites.

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INTERNATIONAL

I'VE JUST completed my voting form for the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year and Young Player of the Year awards.

My choices? Well, I selected Leeds and England midfielder Tony Currie and Garry Birtles, Nottingham Forest's superb young striker.

I know there's been a great deal of canvassing for Tottenham's Argentinian World Cup star Osvaldo Ardiles. Even SHOOT's Chris Davies in an article in last week's issue said there's no justice if this little fellow doesn't win the trophy.

I agree Ardiles has been magic this season and surprised many critics by settling down so quickly in the First Division and adjusting to life in a foreign country.

Some players, me included, doubted if Ossie would be able to cope with the heavy pitches of winter, the snow and biting winds. But he has — in classic style.

According to a recent survey in SHOOT, Tottenham are now the First Division's main attraction away from home, simply because the fans want to see Ardiles. And I don't blame them. He's a soccer education.

Voting for him will be heavy, especially from London-based players. I agree his selection will be popular, but I still stand by "my man" Tony Currie.

Image

He's one of soccer's problem boys come good. His transition is rather similar to that of Kenny Burns, last season's Football Writers' Footballer of the Year, who lost his "bad boy" image when he joined Nottingham Forest.

For years Tony promised so much, but continually frustrated people who knew he had the ability to establish himself as one of the country's leading stars.

Brilliant one week, wayward and moody the next, Tony was in danger of losing touch with the game.

Making him captain of Leeds was a master-stroke of judgment by his former Elland Road boss Jimmy Armfield, the man who bought him from Sheffield United for around £250,000.

Currie thrived on the responsibility, matured and was transformed into a player of real world class.

He is one of the few crowd-pullers around at the moment. A matchwinner with the charisma of a George Best, and the talent to match.

I got to know Tony well when we competed in the BBC TV Superstars competition last summer.

He reckoned we were on the same wavelength. By that Tony meant we were always prepared to try the unexpected on the field... never take the easy route.

To be elected P.F.A. Player of the Year would be a fine reward for Tony's valuable contribution to club and country this season.

Another likely winner is Liam Brady. His form this term has been a vital factor in his club's challenge for the Championship and F.A. Cup.

I would agree with those who say

this is Liam's finest season by far. Not only has he shone in midfield, but he's added goalscoring power to his vast range of skills.

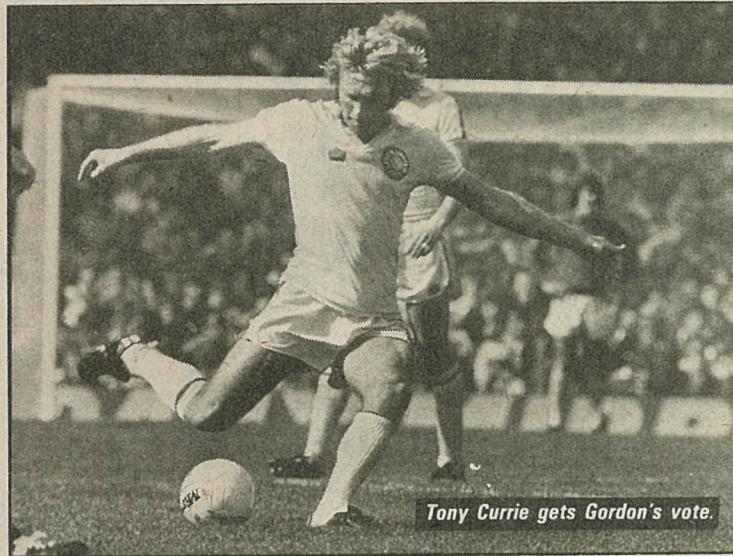
As I write, Chippy has notched around a dozen goals, a great total for a player who has built his reputation on making 'em, rather than scoring 'em.

West Brom skipper and centre-half John Wile will also poll quite a few votes from his fellow professionals.

John is a model player, a tremendous inspiration to his team both on and off the field.

I believe he even stepped in as caretaker-manager for a while when Ronnie Allen resigned towards the end of last season.

Present manager Ron Atkinson is lucky to have a player with John's all-round qualities to back him up in the dressing-room.



Tony Currie gets Gordon's vote.

'GARRY BIRTLES— My Young Player of the Year'

Now for my Young Player of the Year — Garry Birtles.

He was given his chance by Brian Clough soon after Peter Withe was transferred to Newcastle United — and probably saved Forest £500,000.

That's the sum I understand Cloughie was prepared to spend on a replacement for Withe at the time.

Almost as an afterthought, he brought Garry into the team — and the youngster became an overnight sensation, scoring one of the goals which helped knock Liverpool out of the European Cup this season.

That goal in their first-leg First Round tie at the City Ground was Garry's first in senior football and vindicated Cloughie's controversial decision to (a) sell Withe and (b) bring in an untried lad who cost £2,000 from non-Leaguers Long Eaton.

Qualities

Garry, certainly one of the biggest bargains of the decade, has all the qualities of a top class target-man.

He's big, strong, good in the air, brave and fast off the mark.

Next season will be his big test, of course, when opponents will have become accustomed to his style.

But I've a feeling Garry will maintain his present progress and go on to gain international recognition at full level for England.

Other candidates for this award are West Brom's Laurie Cunningham and Cyril Regis, Forest's Viv Anderson and Watford's striker Luther Blissett.

This Saturday (February 24th) at the Baseball Ground, Derby County face Liverpool and Kenny Dalglish, yet another possible Player of the Year.

Kenny was on target twice when Liverpool thrashed The Rams 5-0 at



Garry Birtles.

Anfield earlier in the season.

As Tommy Docherty said afterwards: "It was like pitching men against the boys. Mind you, all you can expect from Liverpool is a cup of tea."

I didn't play because of injury, but felt for the lads when they reported for training the following Monday morning.

No one wanted to discuss the game... no one except The Doc, who gave the team another hammering.

There's no chance I'll be fit to return to the side for this one, unfortunately. But strengthened by Steve Wicks, our recent signing from Chelsea and a new mood of optimism, there's no way Derby will be on the receiving end of another soccer lesson from The Reds.

In fact, I'll stick out my neck, and

injured leg, and forecast a win for Derby.

Honestly, I feel we can pull off a surprise and tuck a few goals past my friend and SHOOT colleague Ray Clemence.

By the way... do you like the photo of me recovering from my recent knee operation in hospital? As you can see, I kept up my spirits by reading SHOOT.

See you soon...

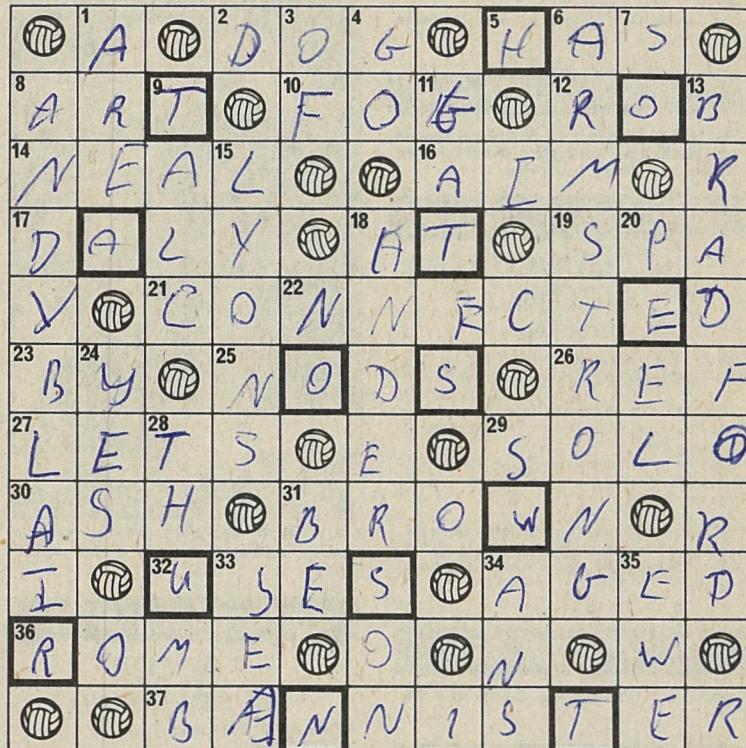
Gordon Hill



my soccer scene
GORDON HILL

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Manchester United defender. Answers on page 42



ACROSS:—

- (2) One called "Pickles" found the World Cup when it was stolen in 1966.
- (5) Ron —rr— of Chelsea.
- (8) White H--- Lane; home of Spurs.
- (10) Weather condition which might cause a match to be abandoned.
- (12) John ---erton of Nottingham Forest.
- (14) Phil —, Liverpool defender.
- (16) A striker needs to have a good one.
- (17) Gerry —, Derby County midfield player.
- (18) Neil Wh---more of Bolton Wanderers.
- (19) John ---rrow of Chelsea.
- (21) Met with. As the striker's boot with the ball!
- (23) Rug-- Park, Kilmarnock.
- (25) Inclinations of the head.
- (26) Short for the man in charge of the game.
- (27) Allows.
- (29) On one's own... perhaps with a — run for goal.
- (30) Jack ---urst of Sunderland.
- (31) Alistair — of West Bromwich Albion.
- (32) Employs.
- (34) Vicar--- Roa-, home of The Hornets.
- (36) Take four letters from Montrose to give a European capital city.
- (37) Bruce —, striker with Hull City.

DOWN:—

- (1) Crewe —l-xand-- from Gresty Road. Vacant ground from the missing letters.
- (3) Nat L--thous, Footballer of the Year, 1952/3.
- (4) —odison Park, Everton's ground.
- (6) Dave —, Middlesbrough striker.
- (7) -chaux, French League club.
- (8) Coventry City midfield player. (4 & 5).
- (9) -en-r-- Park (Cowdenbeath). Powder from the omissions.
- (11) Eric —, Ipswich Town striker.
- (13) — City. The Paraders from Division Four.
- (15) Mike —, Everton defender.
- (18) Viv —, Nottingham Forest attacking full-back.
- (20) -a-m-rston Park, home of Qu-en of the South. Rind from missing letters.
- (22) Preston --rth End from Deepdale.
- (24) and... an affirmative from Troyes (French League club).
- (28) -o-rne-ou-- are nicknamed The Cherries. Hand part from the omissions.
- (29) Nickname of the club from Vetch Field.
- (31) -rwick Rangers from Shielfield Park.
- (33) Roy Gre-v-- (Bolton Wanderers). The omissions reversed.
- (35) Take three letters from F.C. Twente (Dutch League club) to give a sheep.

RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . TEAM LINE-UPS

MONDAY, JAN. 22

F.A. CUP Third Round, Fourth Replay

SHEFF. WED (0) 0
ARSENAL (2) 2 (Gatting, Stapleton)
at Leicester 30,275
Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Price, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Gatting, Rix.
Sheff. W: Turner; Blackhall, Rushbury, Smith (Grant), Pickering, Johnson, Wyde, Porterfield, Owen, Lowey, Hornsby.
Postponed: Third Round: Wrexham v. Stockport.

TUESDAY, JAN. 23

Postponed: League Cup Semi-Final second-leg: Watford v. Nottingham Forest; Fourth Division: Barnsley v. Scunthorpe.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24

LEAGUE CUP Semi-Final first-leg

LEEDS (1) 2 (Currie, Hankin)
SOUTHAMPTON (0) 2 (Holmes, Williams)
33,415
Leeds: Harvey, Cherry, Gray (F), Flynn, Hart, Madeley, Gray (E), Hankin, Hawley, Currie, Graham (Harris).
Southampton: Gennoe; Golac, Peach, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Ball, Boyer, Hebbert, Holmes, Curran.

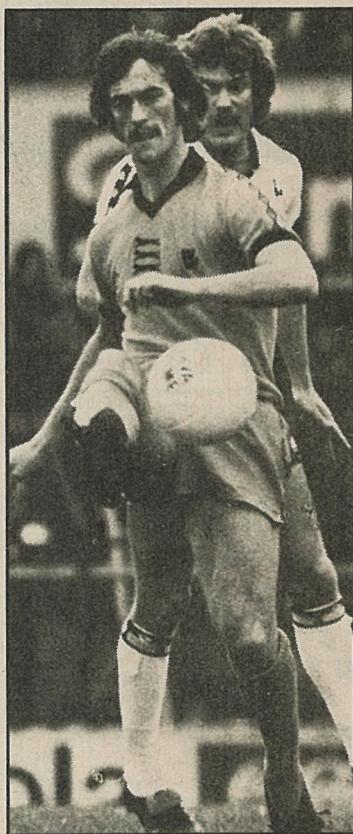
Postponed: F.A. Cup Third Round: Wrexham v. Stockport; First Division: Norwich v. Q.P.R.; Fourth Division: Reading v. Hereford; Wigan v. Torquay.

FRIDAY, JAN. 26

Postponed: Third Division: Southend v. Carlisle.



Southampton's Nick Holmes scored one of the goals in their 2-2 draw v. Leeds in the League Cup.



Kenny Hibbitt of Wolves volleyed home to equalise against Newcastle at St. James' Park.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

F.A. CUP FOURTH ROUND

ARSENAL (0) 2 (Young, Talbot)
NOTTS CO (0) 0 39,173

Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.
Notts. Co: McManus; Richards, O'Brien, Blockley, Stubbs, Mann, McCulloch, Masson, Hooks, Hunt, Vinter.

IPSWICH 0
ORIENT 0 23,357
Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Tibbott, Mills, Osman, Beattie, Wark, Muhrer, Mariner, Whymark, Woods.
Orient: Jackson; Fisher, Roffey, Greasham, Gray, Went, Chiedozie, Moores, Mayo, Kitchen, Coates.

NEWCASTLE (0) 1 (Wither)
WOLVES (0) 1 (Hibbitt) 30,000

Newcastle: Hardwick; Brownlie, Mitchell, Nattrass, Blackley, Barton, Guy, Martin, Wither, Hibbitt, Robinson (McGhee).
Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt, Daley, Bell, Eves (Brazier), Carr.

NOTTM. FOREST (2) 3 (Lloyd, McGovern, O'Neill)

YORK (0) 1 (Wellings) 25,228
Nottm. F: Shilton; Anderson, Bowyer, McGovern, Lloyd, Burns, O'Neill, Gemmill, Birrells, Woodcock, Robertson.

York: Brown; Kay, Walsh, Pugh, Faulkner, Clements, Ford, Randall, Loggie (Wellings), McDonald, Staniforth.

SHREWSBURY (1) 2 (Maguire, Chapman)

MAN. CITY (0) 0 14,215
Shrewsbury: Wardle; King, Larkin, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Chapman, Atkins, Tong, Biggins, Maguire.

Man. C: Corrigan; Donachie, Power, Owen, Watson, Fletcher (P), Channon, Deyna (Bell), Kidd, Hartford, Barnes.

Postponed: Aldershot v. Swindon; Bristol R v. Charlton; Burnley v. Sunderland; C. Palace v. Bristol C; Fulham v. Man. Utd; Leeds v. W.B.A.; Liverpool v. Blackburn; Newport v. Colchester;

Oldham v. Leicester; Preston v. Southampton; Third Round: Wrexham v. Stockport.

First Division: Birmingham v. Q.P.R.; Bolton v. Everton; Middlesbrough v. Derby; Second Division: Cambridge v. Millwall; Cardiff v. West Ham; Luton v. Stoke.

THIRD DIVISION

GILLINGHAM 0
BRENTFORD 0 6,899

Gillingham: Hillyard; Sharpe, Barker, Overton, Weatherley, Crabbe (Walker), Nicholl, Hughes, Price, Westwood, Jolley.

Brentford: Bond; Salman, Fraser, McNichol, Kruse, Graham (J), Carlton, Shrub, Smith, Alder, Phillips.

OXFORD (0) 1 (Foley)
WATFORD (1) 1 (Sims) 10,310

Oxford: Burton; McIntosh, Fogg, Briggs, Bodel, Taylor, Graydon, Duncan, Foley, Seacole (Berry), Hodson.

Watford: Sherwood; Stirk, Harrison, Joslyn, Sims, Garner, Pollard (Cassells), Blissett, Jenkins, Train, Bolton.

PLYMOUTH (1) 2 (Binney 2, 1 pen)

SHEFF. WED (0) 0 8,596
Plymouth: Hodge; Uzell, McNeill, Bason, Foster, Clarke, Silkman, Megson, Binney, Trusson, Rogers.

Sheff. W: Turner; Blackhall, Rushbury, Mullen, Pickering, Johnson, Wyde, Lowey, Taylor, Peterfield (Grant), Hornsby.

Postponed: Bury v. Tranmere; Mansfield v. Rotherham; Swansea v. Chester; Walsall v. Blackpool; Hull v. Exeter; Peterborough v. Chesterfield.

FOURTH DIVISION

TORQUAY (1) 1 (Murphy)

DARLINGTON (0) 0 2,321

Torquay: Turner; Darke, Parsons, Twitchin, Boulton, Dunne, Wilson, Lawrence (Cooper), Coffill, Murphy, Johnson.

Darlington: Burleigh; Crosson, Cochrane, Lyons, Craig, Stone, Probert, Walsh, Ferguson, Seal, Wann.

Postponed: Barnsley v. Doncaster; Bradford C v. Wigan; Halifax v. Hartlepool; Reading v. Wimbledon; Bournemouth v. Port Vale; Grimsby v. Crewe; Hereford v. Rochdale; Northampton v. Huddersfield.



Sharp-shooter Joe Harper scored for Aberdeen in their 2-0 away win over Hamilton.

SCOTTISH CUP

Third Round

ARBROATH (0) 0

AIRDRIE (1) 1 (Clarke) 1,566
Arbroath: Lister; McKenzie, Rylance, Cargill, Wells (Gavine), Fettes, Fletcher (Myles), Carson, Wilson, Kidd, Yule.

Airdrie: McGarr; Jonquin, Docherty, Anderson, Black, Lapsley, McCann, Walker, Clarke, Ross, McCullouch.

EAST FIFE (0) 0

BERWICK (0) 1 (Smith) 1,666
East Fife: Blair; Macvor, Gillies, Clarke, Methven, Wedderburn (Huskie), Cairns, George, Dickson, Mackie (Young), Gibson. Berwick: Frame; Laing, MacLeod, Smith (D), Rutherford, Morton, Davidson, Smith (G), Johnson, Wheatley, Moyes.

HAMILTON (0) 0

ABERDEEN (0) 2 (Miller, Harper) 12,000
Hamilton: Ferguson; Frew, Kellachen, Fairley, Dempsey, Alexander, Grant, Graham, Howie, McDowall (Morrison), McManus. Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, Considine, Strachan, Rougvie, Miller, Sullivan, Archibald, Harper, Jarvis (McMaster), Scanlon.

RAITH (0) 0

HEARTS (1) 2 (Robertson 2) 10,000
Raith: McDermott; McDonough, Candlish, Houston, Forsyth, Thomson (D), Wallace, Urquhart (Murray), Harrow, McFarlane, Thomson (R) (Forrest).

Hearts: Dunlop; Kidd, Brown, McNicoll, Jefries, Black, Gibson, Busby, O'Connor, Fraser, Robertson.

Postponed: Ayr v. Q. of S; Clyde v. Kilmarnock; Clydebank v. Queen's Park; Dumbarston v. Alloa; Dundee U v. St Mirren; Meadowbank v. Spartans; Montrose v. Celtic; Morton v. St Johnstone; Rangers v. Motherwell; Stirling v. Patrick.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.
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'I play the same for Oldham as I did for Everton'

INJURY problems have plagued Oldham Athletic this season and have contributed to their poor form. That's skipper and central-defender John Hurst's verdict on the Second Division club's performances.

"We haven't been able to field the same team two games on the trot," says the 32-year-old former Everton player.

"Our injury problem began before the season started when John Platt, the keeper, broke a leg in one of our Anglo-Scottish games. Then the right-back, Gary Hoolickin, suffered a similar fate. Mick Bernard had to retire and Dave Holmes tore knee ligaments.

"Winger Carl Valentine, who has joined Vancouver Whitecaps and flies out at the end of February, missed two months through ankle trouble and Steve Gardner is in hospital. So we've had a terrible time."

"On a brighter note, Jim Steel, who came in when Vic Halom was sidelined has scored four times in six outings which isn't a bad record. He's a young Scottish lad and without doubt a player of the future.

"Jimmy Frizzell, the manager, has been trying desperately to

strengthen the squad, yet people don't appear to want to come to Boundary Park.

"Oldham doesn't sound a glamorous place and when you think of football clubs you tend to think of the Manchester Uniteds and the Evertons. But you'd think young lads with First Division clubs and stuck in the reserves, would jump at the chance of regular first team football.

"After all, the Second Division isn't a bad grade. Take Fulham and their exploits against Manchester United at Craven Cottage in the Fourth Round of the F.A. Cup.

'On a par'

"In fact, I slip over to Goodison Park to watch night matches and over the last two years I've seen a lot of First Division sides who are on a par with the top Second Division clubs."

John joined Oldham in the Summer of 1976 after playing 349 League games for Everton. "I made my debut when I was 18," he says. "I played in the F.A. Cup Final in 1968 when we were beaten 1-0 at the hands of West Brom. The highlight? Winning the Championship in season 1969-70. It was a

tremendous campaign.

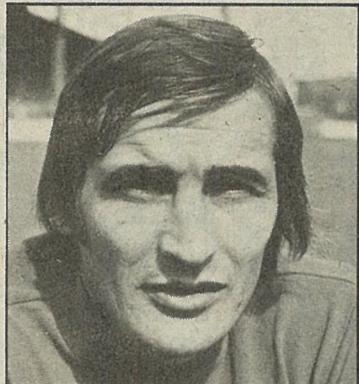
"How do I see my role at Oldham? It's no different from when I was at Everton. There are a few younger lads at Boundary Park and they haven't had the experience. I'm simply doing my job in the team and trying to help the youngsters along.

"Jimmy Frizzell is very good. He's honest, he's fair and he's straight. I don't think you could wish for a better manager. He gets on well with the players. You can go and see him whenever you want and nothing is too much trouble for him.

"His record in the Football League is exemplary. He's been in charge at Oldham for about eight years now and every year the club has improved. It's amazing. They were at the bottom of the Fourth Division when he took over.

"Team spirit is excellent despite all the setbacks. They're the best set of lads I've known. It's only a small club and I think the players respond to a family atmosphere.

"The crowds are very disappointing. I think our average gate is around 8,000. During my time here we've only lost about half a dozen home matches. But it's only ten minutes to counter attractions



says JOHN HURST

in Manchester, so we're fighting against that.

"West Ham are by far the best team Oldham have played this season. They're streets ahead of Stoke. Crystal Palace are another side which have impressed. Burnley on their day are as good as anyone, but they lack consistency."

At 32, how does Hurst foresee the future? "My contract runs out at the end of this season," he says. "I'd like to stay, but that's up to the manager. I'm good for at least another three years. I simply want to carry on playing for as long as I can. I'm happy at Oldham — it's a very good club."

'Luton will lead-next season'

says their recent signing from Oldham, STEVE TAYLOR



SCORING goals is what Steve Taylor, Luton Town's £60,000 January signing from Oldham Athletic, does best.

Two seasons ago the 23-year-old hot-shot scored 20 goals in 32 appearances for Bolton Wanderers. And, after his surprise £40,000 move to Boundary Park last October, the goal plunderer grabbed 25 in 45 League outings.

Says Steve: "David Pleat, the Luton boss, simply told me my goalscoring record spoke for itself. He thought I could score goals and this is why he bought me."

"It was a transfer out of the blue really. I'd heard a few weeks earlier someone had been enquiring

about me, but the deal fell through. I didn't even know Luton were interested until I received a phone call one morning asking me to report at the ground. I signed immediately; it was as sudden and as simple as that.

"I look on it as a fresh challenge. Things hadn't gone as well for me at Oldham this term as they did last. For most of the time I'd been playing with a niggling thigh strain, plus the fact the entire team has been fighting an injury battle.

"I was struggling to find my best form and my scoring touch which, I must admit, had somehow eluded me. I felt a change of clubs and new surroundings would do my career a world of good. I'm sure I'll score plenty of goals here at Luton.

"My injuries have completely healed and I'm feeling fitter than I've done for some time — more like the Steve Taylor of old. I can't wait to get on the goal-trail again.

"I've no regrets at leaving my home town of Oldham, but one thing I've learned is you don't pick up any medals for turning out when you're not 100 per cent fit. This is something the crowd don't realise, something they don't see.

"The set up at Kenilworth Road

is very impressive. They seem keen to do well and they've spent a lot of money drafting in new players. They're ambitious and I think they're going to go places.

"It's a very young team. There's only Bob Hatton who is knocking on a bit, so they say. At Oldham there were one or two experienced men like Vic Halom and John Hurst, whereas at Luton, the side is bursting with youthful exuberance. This year the foundations for the future have been laid. It's a matter of gaining experience and playing together. I think next season will belong to Luton — that's the way everybody at this club is thinking."

Replaced

Steve made his debut for The Hatters against Bristol Rovers when he replaced leading scorer, Brian Stein.

"I was really pleased with the way I played," he says. "I didn't open my account, but I thought I fitted in fine. We won 3-2 after trailing 2-0 at half-time, so in the end it was a good result."

"I've got a lot to live up to taking over from a player who has scored more than a dozen goals so far this

season. Obviously he must be disappointed at being left out and I feel I've really got to turn it on to keep my place. With experience Brian Stein is going to become a very accomplished player indeed.

"With Bob Hatton around there's a healthy competition, three of us fighting for two positions. Also if one gets injured, then there's a ready made replacement to fill the gap. That's the way you've got to think these days. You've got to have strength in depth."

"I've been very impressed with team-boss, David Pleat. He's really keen and wants to be successful. He's out training with the lads every day and he's gathered a lot of skilful players together."

"I'm very thrilled at the prospect of playing with winger Dave Moss. He can cross balls beautifully and this is what I want. Good service in the box is what all strikers thrive on. Behind us is the talented Alan West to split defences with a telling ball."

"My ambition is to play in the First Division with Luton. Promotion won't come this time — there's too much leeway to make up. But next season I think we'll pull it off."

Leicester's new star still cleaning his team-mates boots



Up in the North-East 16-year-old Dave Buchanan (above) has his own fan club — and in the Midlands he cannot walk down the streets of his home town without being besieged by autograph hunters.

He has won the praise of Britain's soccer writers and managers like Jock Wallace, Jimmy Armfield and Ron Atkinson have all marked him down as a player to watch.

Yet Buchanan only signed as an apprentice professional with Second Division Leicester City after leaving school six months ago.

It took him less than a week to catapult from youth team obscurity to first team fame and the glare of publicity is now firmly fixed on him.

"You'd think I'd won the pools," says the Newcastle-born striker. "Suddenly, everyone wanted to talk to me and wanted my autograph. It's a nice feeling but very tiring."

Blond boy Buchanan earned himself the price of fame by having the audacity to take on — and beat — established players when he was thrust into the first team. And the coolness to score on his debut, Leicester's 2-0 home win over Oldham on New Year's Day.

'Surprised'

That started them all talking and Buchanan said afterwards: "I didn't have time for nerves and I was surprised how easy it was to fit in with the other players."

He followed up that performance by giving a dazzling display against Norwich in the Third Round of the F.A. Cup as Leicester trounced the East Anglian side 3-0 at Filbert Street.

He did it in front of the biggest crowd he has ever played before (20,000) and against a Norwich side which included former international star Martin Peters, who was winning the World Cup with

England before Buchanan started school.

Backing him were dozens of friends from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the Leicestershire village where he has lived with his parents and brother for most of his life.

And in another stand were scores of relations from Newcastle. "I could hear The Kop roaring as we attacked and that lifted me as well as knowing my friends and relations were also in the ground."

Buchanan has the skill to turn defenders and the battling qualities to break through defences. His total commitment to his game brought him 13 goals in the youth team and reserves and caught Wallace's eye.

But Buchanan knows he could be back in the youth team at any time. He said: "I know I've had a lot of publicity and people seem to see it as a step down to go back to the youth team."

'Success'

"But I want to play for the youth side. We are doing well in the League and in Cup competitions so I would like to be part of any success they have."

In fact, Buchanan still has to carry out all the duties reserved for apprentices, washing out the changing rooms and baths after matches and cleaning boots.

"I don't mind at all," he says. "It's all part of my training and it's no hardship carrying out a few jobs like that for the chance to play football."

His enthusiasm and zest for the game is one of the reasons why manager Wallace is banking on youth to bring success.

Wallace says: "I told Buchanan to give me his best and it would be good enough for me, that's exactly what he did and I was satisfied with him. He's a good prospect and should do well."

BRIAN Hall, the Preston lad who played so well for First Division Liverpool for many years, has not exactly set Turf Moor alight since he joined Burnley in November last year for a total of £25,000.

But he has now established himself as a first team regular in the Second Division side pushing for promotion.

Preston's Deepdale was the first ground where Hall watched football.

Hall, who has just turned 31, won many honours with Liverpool after he had been spotted by them when playing for Liverpool University.

"They signed me when I was 18 as a part-timer and I was also a part-time teacher for about six months after I finished at university," he said. "But then I became a full-timer and played an attacking midfield role using the right-wing when the opportunities arose."

"I was transferred to Plymouth when I was 28 for £40,000 but I never really settled there."

Burnley were in a position near the bottom of the Second Division table when Hall joined them.

"They had taken only five points from 15 League games," he said.

"But Steve Kindon, who was signed from Wolves, and I both arrived at Turf Moor in the same week and made our debuts for the club in the 3-0 win over Notts County."

"I played well that day and Burnley's results started to pick up in the following weeks."

"But I broke two bones in my back in the match against Sunderland at Turf Moor on New Year's Eve."

"The game finished as a goalless draw after I left the field at half-time, and I was then laid up for two months."

"Burnley continued to play well without me and I could not get my place back when I recovered from the injury, although I made a few appearances towards the end of last season as a substitute."

"It was also difficult for me to

HALL'S happy to be back for BURNLEY

"I would have liked to have joined Preston and I know they watched me, but I can understand North End not being too impressed because I was never at my best in the Plymouth team."

"Plymouth wanted me to play at the front and it was not my proper position."

Hall was transferred to Burnley after 15 months in the West Country and he now lives in a house in Longridge just five doors away from the house where he lived when he played for Liverpool.

"My mum and dad live nearby and I can drive to Burnley's training ground at Padiham in only 25 minutes," he said.

"I am very happy and I am more than pleased at Burnley although I would have been equally pleased to have joined Preston because I would have given everything to play for my home club."

Married to a Preston girl with two daughters, aged seven and four, and a son aged three, Hall was born in Glasgow.

'Scottish mother'

"But that was only because my father, who was in the RAF, was in Scotland at the time after marrying my mother, who is Scottish," he explained.

"My father brought us back to Preston when I was only six months old and he was born at Stonyhurst College where my grandfather was a physical education teacher."

"I played for Ribbleton Avenue Methodists as well as for Preston Grammar School and for Lancashire's Schoolboys and the Grammar School Old Boys."

"I always supported North End but then my big chance came with Liverpool."

"I was called up to the Scottish full international squad in 1973 because I was qualified to play for Scotland as well as England but failed to get a cap."



win my place back at the start of this season although I eventually did so and played well in the Anglo-Scottish Cup-tie against Glasgow Celtic at Turf Moor.

"I also played in a few other games but was left out again after we lost to Sunderland."

"But I am now back and if people say I am giving my best performances for Burnley, I am not going to argue."

Hall believes that Burnley can finish high in the Second Division table this season and says he operates as a midfield man on the right, although he does not attack as much as he did when with Liverpool.

Clearly he is enjoying his new lease of football life.



JOHN BIRD

BIG MATCH **CROSSTALK**

**NEWCASTLE V
SUNDERLAND**

Saturday, February 24th



MIKE DOCHERTY

**A PROMOTION-
POINTING DERBY?**

BIRD: This second "derby" of the season is a vital one, Mike, due to the way both teams are situated in the League. It should be as closely contested as the match at Roker, where I thought we earned our 1-1 draw.

DOCHERTY: I reckoned we had the edge in that match, John, but I'm not complaining. This time, there is certainly plenty at stake, as we are both on the promotion fringe, and can't afford to give anything away. Not that we'll be going for a draw — we'll be out to win.

BIRD: There will be pressure on both sides to collect the points. There is a special atmosphere in the North-East, as I found when I came here from Preston. People take the game seriously, and players are kept on their toes, which is a good thing.

DOCHERTY: In front of the 40,000 or 50,000 fans expected for this "derby," the players can't afford to relax. In my department, midfield, we are aware you have experienced men such as Terry Hibbitt, Irving Nattrass and Mick Martin, and what happens in this area could decide the match.

BIRD: Speaking about midfield, I admire the way Bob Lee has settled in there for Sunderland, after taking a lot of "stick" from supporters. Signed as a striker and going to Roker at a time when the team was going through a bad patch, Bob has fought back and proved himself to the crowd. He refused offers to join other clubs, which to me shows he really was determined to make a go of it on Wearside.

DOCHERTY: Agreed. And Bob's team spirit is typical of how the lads feel. After beating Everton in the F.A. Cup, our morale was first-class, which is why I was disappointed bad weather came along to interrupt our match routine. We were on the crest of a wave following the Cup win, and I believe it's important to keep on playing regularly when players are feeling in that mood.

BIRD: Confidence is essential, and the experience you mentioned we have in our side has been a stabilising influence. Admittedly, as a defender, I've not found much difference on the field since we were relegated last season, but I think a young forward anxious to play football could be knocked off his stride by the quicker tackling in the Second Division.

DOCHERTY: We got through our settling-in period in Division Two last season. Newcastle are going through that spell now, and although I feel along with Sunderland you can make a strong promotion bid this term, I'm



Action from this season's 1-1 draw at Roker Park, Sunderland.

confident if you failed to finish in a top place in 1979 you would definitely make it in 1980.

BIRD: Summing up Newcastle and Sunderland on paper, there isn't a lot to choose between us. A lot will depend on how well chances are taken in this game and in Peter Withe, we've a centre-forward who works hard at creating opportunities for others as well as being good at accept-

ing them himself.

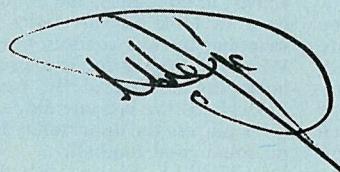
DOCHERTY: I remember Peter got your goal in the 1-1 draw, so we'll be marking him. Our back-fours are fairly even, with Sunderland's full-backs, Mick Henderson and Joe Bolton, probably more inclined to go forward. This can leave us more open than you are, but we try to compensate for this by having midfield men ready to plug any gaps.

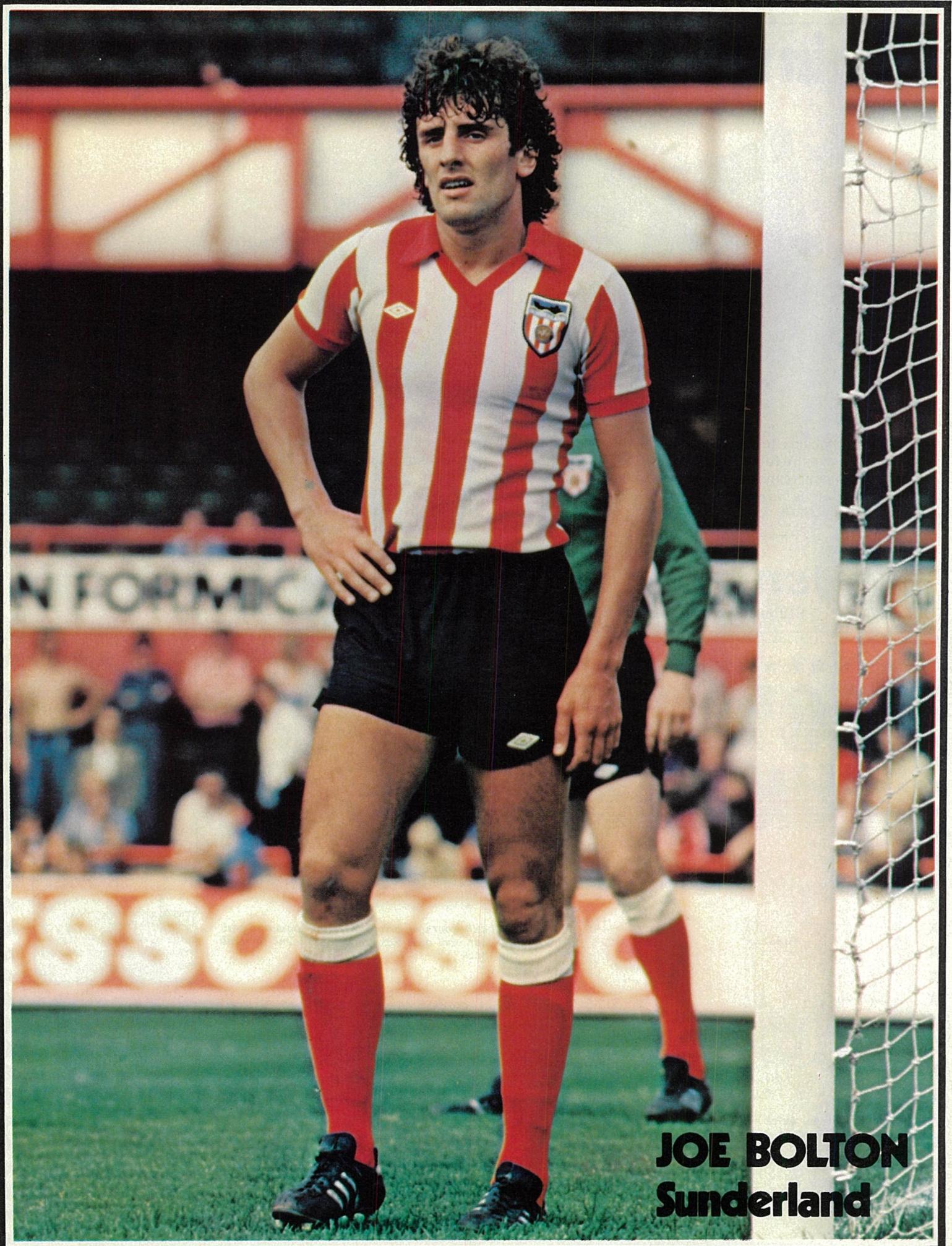
BIRD: There is almost certain to be activity at both ends, and I know we'll have to look out for Gary Rowell snapping up half-chances near goal. What I'm hoping for is a game that holds the interest of the fans right through, as the last one did, and also gives players the opportunity to serve up some good football.

DOCHERTY: I'll be satisfied with a point — but happier with two.

FOCUS ON MIKE PEJIC EVERTON

FULL NAME: Michael Pejic
BIRTHPLACE: Chesterton, Staffs
BIRTHDATE: 25th January, 1950
HEIGHT: 5ft 7ins
WEIGHT: 11st 3lbs
PREVIOUS CLUB: Stoke City
MARRIED: To Lynne
CHILDREN: Claire 6, Nikki 3
CAR: Volvo estate
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Former Leeds United star
Billy Bremner
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Nottingham Forest
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: West Bromwich Albion's winger, Laurie Cunningham
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Winning the League Cup at Wembley with Stoke City in 1971-72
BIGGEST THRILL: Gaining my first England cap with Sir Alf Ramsey
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing in my third F.A. Cup Semi-Final and each time after a replay
BEST COUNTRIES VISITED: Yugoslavia and the South of France
FAVOURITE FOOD: Fish and home made and fresh foods
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Horse riding, playing tennis, fishing and ornithology
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Pollution, politics and losing
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: World About Us, Horizon and wild life films
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Joni Mitchell, Fleetwood Mac and E.L.O.
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Charlton Heston and Katherine Ross
BEST FRIEND: My team-mate Dave Thomas
BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON CAREER: Tony Lacey, who is now youth team coach at Stoke City and my father
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Out through injury and being away from home
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Eight Under-23 and four full caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To buy and to make a living off my own hill farm when I no longer play football
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To win the F.A. Cup and League Championship with Everton
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? A professional tennis player
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Naturalist David Attenborough





JOE BOLTON
Sunderland

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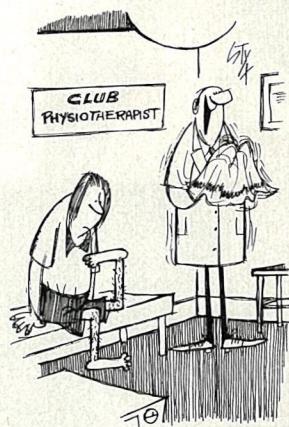
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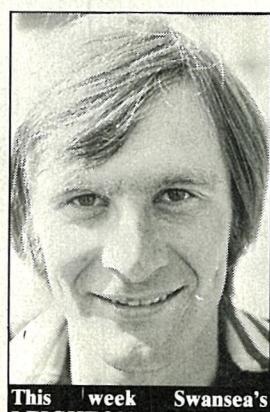
"Ah, well. Doesn't take long for these old magic fingers to manipulate that funny little muscle back into place"



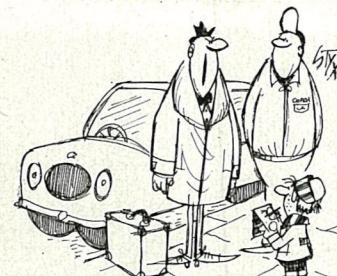
"Not only your own private dressing-room and bath but your very own Eastern handmaidens to scrub your back"



"Looks bad. After you play a stinker, the boss ALWAYS wants to see you — this time, he doesn't"



This week Swansea's LEIGHTON PHILLIPS selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Do you notice when Tommy Docherty leaves a club the world's Press turns up but when it's me it's the junior reporter from Slag Lane Comprehensive School's Magazine"

THE great thing about football is that even when the action has to bow to the winter frosts and snows, the game isn't forgotten. Fans from nine to 90 love to argue about the great games, the famous names and the finest teams.

And they can thrash it all out till the cows come home, but every one has a different opinion about it all.

Players, too, like to talk about the finest moments in football and the players they admired. Can you tell me about anyone in football who hasn't at some time or other picked his all-time World XI to take on the Martians?

Well, I've done it too, and with so much football being postponed considered this an ideal opportunity to reflect on the men and moments that have stirred the adrenalin.

The best game I ever saw? No doubt about that one — the Semi-Final of the 1970 European Cup when Celtic beat Leeds United 2-1 in the second-leg at Hampden. Celts lost the Final 2-1 to Feyenoord in Milan, but everyone called the Semi the "Final" before the Final.



Danny with his pet dog Judy.

Tartan Talk DANNY McGRAIN

was a pleasure and a relief to have him in your team.

I would have partnered him with Eric Caldow, the former Rangers captain, who broke a leg in 1965 in the match they called Jim Baxter's Wembley.

Needless to say elegant, superb Slim Jim Baxter, another Ranger, would be at left-half, teaming up with my current manager at Celtic, Billy McNeill and 1974 World Cup captain Billy Bremner.

What a half-back line and such is my admiration for Bremner that I go for him just ahead of Paddy Crerand, formerly of Celtic and Manchester United.

And what a pleasure it would be to see my forward line in action! It's a five-pronged machine, which no other country in the world could have matched.

With Johnstone on one wing, I would go for the subtle skills of Leeds United's Eddie Gray on the left. Eddie, whose injury-prone life

'TOP SCOTS FROM THE SIXTIES'

Celtic had already won the first-leg at Elland Road, but Leeds, rated by the English critics as the best English team in years and certainties for the European Cup, were determined to put that right in Scotland.

Billy Bremner scored a magnificent goal, but Jock Stein's men and the incredible Hampden roar were too much for Revie's United and Celtic cruised into their second European Cup Final in a magnificent match.

I was a reserve at Parkhead in those days and watched it all from the North stand at Hampden, but I will never forget how Jimmy Johnstone destroyed England international Terry Cooper, then rated one of the best full-backs in the world.

And that is as good a reason as any why the wee man would be in my Scotland team selected from our international players from the early Sixties.

I choose the early Sixties because that was the time I first went to games and became aware of the talents of players.

Johnstone was an enigma. His ball control was unlike anything I had ever seen before or since. He could turn on a coin and put the fear of death into every full-back.

He didn't have the playboy image of George Best or the build of Pele . . . but he was better than Best and in some ways as good as the Brazilian maestro.

My goalkeeper in such a team would be another Celtic man, Ronnie Simpson. Ronnie won a European Cup medal for Celtic and played for Scotland in 1967 at Wembley when statistics would say he should have been long retired.

At right-full back, Davie Hay, again once of Celtic — don't worry I do mention other teams — and now of Chelsea. Davie was both skilled and hard as nails as well as being an incredible competitor. It



Jimmy Johnstone could destroy defenders.

has cut his Scotland international career prematurely short, is still an artist at his work and is indeed in some ways a marriage of the skills of Johnstone and Jim Baxter.

There can only be one choice for the number eight jersey . . . the White Ghost of White Hart Lane. That's John White the magnificently skilled aristocrat of the football field, who was tragically killed by lightning on the golf course.

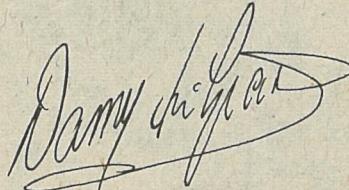
He would have been just the man to supply the ammo to a double-headed strike force which every Scot would love to see . . . Denis Law and Kenny Dalglish.

I reckon if that dream team could ever have been, it would have matched the finest side I ever saw . . . the 1970 World Cup winning Brazil squad.

They said they couldn't defend, they said they didn't have a goalkeeper . . . but the truth is they didn't need one. Every defender in the team could have won a place in the attack of every other side in the World Cup and, indeed, Pele would probably have been the best goalkeeper in the world if they had tried him out!

Real Madrid of the early Sixties, Celtic's Lisbon Lions, the current Liverpool side, Manchester United of the Law, Charlton and Best era . . . all were superb, but the dusky geniuses of Brazil get my vote.

See you in two weeks . . .



NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN
TALK BY RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE

OUR goals . . . two very valuable points . . . a good, if not outstanding performance . . . and the crowd pretty well satisfied: our European Championship victory against Northern Ireland was a bonus for all the England players. We all thought we could win, but the general opinion was a two-goal margin was all we could realistically hope for.

It's not very often Northern Ireland lose by four goals — can you recall the last time? Kevin Keegan said before the game if England are to get back to the top in international football, we must bury sides like the Irish at Wembley, which we certainly did.

On the night, we were simply too good for Ireland. They did quite well in the first-half, but those two quick goals after the break killed them and from then it was just a question of how many we'd score.

Ron Greenwood's team selection surprised a lot of people. Personally, I had an idea he'd remain faithful to those who had done so well in the previous European Championship ties. The England boss experimented in the friendly against Czechoslovakia, but when it came to a competitive match, I had a hunch Ray Clemence, Phil Neal and company would be back.

Mr. Greenwood told me that after several weeks on the sidelines and just one comeback game, I wasn't really ready to play in an international and I didn't expect to be selected. Just to be in the squad was a boost for me, having been injured for so long. He reassured me when I was fully fit I'd be considered for selection again, and I couldn't ask for more than that.



"Simply being part of the England squad is an honour in itself."

**RAY
WILKINS**
Writes for you

**'BETTER THAN
WE EXPECTED'**



"I thought Peter Barnes had an excellent game against the Irish."

Mind you, getting back into the team won't be easy. They say you never change a winning side, so all I can do is to knuckle down at Chelsea and do my best.

It was the first time I'd sat on the Wembley bench for 18 months. You don't get a very good view from there, being unable to see moves building up. Ron Greenwood and Geoff Hurst sit upstairs, where they can see everything more clearly.

It's strange being a substitute. No sub ever hopes a player will be injured so he can get on, but at the same time he has his fingers crossed that for one reason or another he'll be given a run out. Mind you, as England were going so well, it was understandable Ron Greenwood didn't want to disturb the balance of the line-up.

The Irish disappointed me just a little, although I was in a unique position in being happy to see the team of my club manager beaten! I saw Danny Blanchflower the next morning when Chelsea trained — he didn't say much!

Pat Jennings won't have been

adding: "But there are still some things we're not doing correctly."

Even so, with one defeat in 13 games, it's impossible not to be happy with the way we're progressing.

It is great to hear the Wembley crowd chanting, cheering and singing after a few years when they didn't have too much to cheer about.

England are now sitting on top of Group One, but there is still a long way to go. We've done all we've had to so far, but we face two stiff away trips, to Belfast and Bulgaria and then there is still the Republic of Ireland to play at Wembley. That match could just be the most difficult of them all, but as it's our last tie I hope we have secured our place in the Finals by then. Otherwise, it'll be some game.

I'm feeling a lot happier with my form now; the enforced lay-off probably did me some good, restoring my appetite for the game and I was delighted to score twice against Birmingham City in my comeback.

This Saturday (February 24th) we

"Frank Worthington beats our David Stride to the ball in the incredible game earlier this season when we beat Bolton 4-3."



very pleased with Kevin Keegan's opening goal, but apart from a few spells, England dominated the game.

Kevin Keegan — what a player. Man of the Match, of course, he was absolutely brilliant. I thought his performance against Hungary at Wembley last May, when we beat them 4-1, was special, but he was every bit as good, if not better, against the Irish.

George Best and Johan Cruyff may have skills that Kevin doesn't possess, but on the other hand Kev can do things they can't. I've never seen a player as sharp, or who can turn so quickly. Kev's as fit as any player can be and so quick it's impossible to stay with him.

Yet Kevin isn't an individual; he grafts for 90 minutes which some 'class' players don't. Kev has a tremendous appetite for work and if he doesn't play in the British Championship due to club games he'll be sorely missed.

However, England are not a one-man team. In my view, Peter Barnes had a superb game, doing all the things we expect of him and doing them so confidently. Trevor Brooking, especially in the second-half, was world-class.

Ron Greenwood said to us, after the game: "Well done, lads!" and then brought us down to earth by

face Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park and they'll be extra keen to beat us.

They won't have forgotten that incredible match at Stamford Bridge where they led 3-0 with a quarter of an hour to go, only to lose 4-3.

Clive Walker came on as sub for us and turned the tables almost immediately. It still doesn't seem possible we won a match that, with just 15 minutes to go we were doomed to lose, but it proves you must never give in.

This week, I think we'll only give Bolton a two-goal start as they're at home.

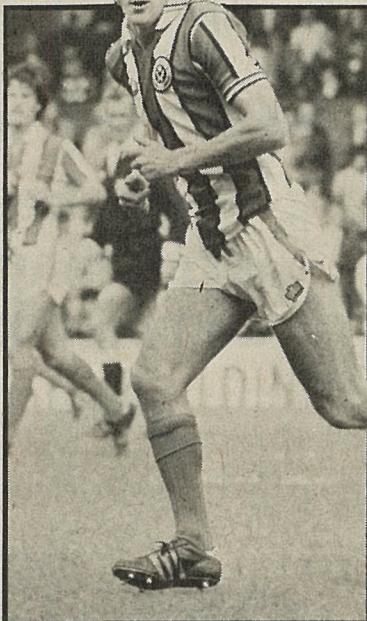
Seriously, the man we must watch is Frank Worthington, who has led the First Division's goalscorers this season. Frank played well against us at The Bridge and he's a striker I rate highly.

In our position, we must aim to take at least a point from every away game, two from some, to maintain our fight against relegation. It all adds up to a close game.

Join me again in a fortnight,

SIMON STAINROD-

making progress in style



for ten games. His first goal in the League was against Norwich, the week after the Spurs match, and now, as a midfield player, he can look back on more than 70 appearances and 14 goals.

He married Gillian, a Second Generation dancer, nineteen months ago. They live in Barnsley. His father was a big, strong amateur centre-forward who was on the books of Sheffield Wednesday, then Sheffield United.

"I used to like watching him play," said Simon. "He was fast and could guarantee

goals, but I knew my game would need to have more emphasis of skill on the ball." A natural reaction at the time from a lad who would practice for hours in the back garden the moves he had seen of maestros like di Stefano.

His practice has certainly paid off. His jaunty ball play won him selection for an England Youth match against West Germany and, in the words of his manager Harry Haslam: "There is no limit to where his skills might take him... he has the lot... but he is young and is learning to increase his work-rate and involvement and to add punch to his skill."

Satisfaction

Stainrod is learning well. He grafted in the side that beat Liverpool 1-0 in the League Cup and he must have gained enormous satisfaction when grabbing two goals at Maine Road two months ago against a Manchester City reserve team that included the highly priced Mike Channon and Paul Futcher. Achievements like that are helping him to develop so when he becomes a regular first team player he will be able to take a more commanding role.

Stainrod went on as substitute against Oldham, in October, with the message from the bench 'be aggressive' ringing in his ears. The side were hanging on to a 2-1 lead. With just over twenty minutes left he took the game by the scruff of the neck.

One minute launching his 6' 0", 11st. 10lb. frame to put a header against the bar — the rebound being snapped up by Gary Hamson to put the side further ahead — the next, picking up a header from Steve Finnieston near the touchline, to stride forward and from 20 yards score with a tremendous curling shot. It completely changed the tempo of the game and the supporters sang their way through the rest of the match.

He is 19. Made his debut, in the First Division, against Spurs in March, 1976, and stayed in the side

He will be able to accept the acclaim that will surely come his way in a level headed way because he has the calm, confident temperament that most players have who play with brain rather than brawn. His philosophy on the field is one of the reasons why we are pleased to feature him so early: "The game was invented to be enjoyed. It wasn't meant to produce robots. If you think something is on you should try it."

"I believe," he insisted, "that the game calls for ability plus imagination." He is right. Many others start out with the same principles but lose their way. Stainrod has the mettle to withstand criticism which can be inhibiting. He is a positive man who wants to play in the best company — we believe he will make it — with style.

THE thunder heard recently in Edinburgh had nothing at all to do with the famous one o'clock gun. The uproar and anger was coming from the direction of Tynecastle as Hearts fans raged over the transfer of pin-up boy Eamonn Bannon.

Chelsea stepped in with a £220,000 offer and Hearts manager Willie Ormond, knowing his own club were staring relegation full in the face, accepted the fee.

The Edinburgh fans probably knew one day Bannon would take his precocious talents to a bigger setting, but the transfer fee, they argued, was laughable.

On the face of it, Chelsea have really got themselves a bargain. Bannon has rare talent and was adjudged by many shrewd experts — Jock Stein among them — to be heading for the top. A fee of £220,000 in today's ridiculously inflated transfer market is a joke . . . a sick joke as far as Hearts fans are concerned.

There is a growing belief among Scottish soccer fans that most of the clubs North of the border are naive in a cut-throat business. Some managers, it seems, just don't know what is happening in today's market.

To support that theory just take a look at some of the players who have been spirited out of Scotland in recent years. Take Alan Hansen, for a start.

He cost Liverpool a mere £100,000 when they signed him from Partick Thistle two seasons ago. What is he worth now? The bidding would have to start at £250,000 at least.

Andy Gray is another example of a player crossing the border for a totally unrealistic fee. He cost Aston Villa £110,000 from Dundee United.

Celtic, too, were caught out when they accepted £440,000 for Kenny Dalglish. After only a couple of months on the English scene he was being rated in the £700,000 bracket. He must be valued even higher now if Trevor Francis is worth £1 million.

Promise

Gordon McQueen became the highest-priced player in Britain last year when Manchester United lashed out £500,000 to take him from Leeds United. But how much did he cost the Elland Road club when they signed him as a youngster of the highest promise from St. Mirren?

The price was a miserable £40,000 . . . a fee that defies logic. St. Mirren have said they will not make that mistake again and they are proving they have learned their lesson the hard way by hanging on to players such as Frank McGarvey, Tony Fitzpatrick, Billy Stark and other talented youngsters.

If they do eventually leave Love Street they are going to cost some club an awful lot of money.

Gordon McQueen's good friend and team-mate at Old Trafford, Joe Jordan, joined Manchester United for £350,000 from Leeds. That figure soars high above what the Elland Road side forked out for Jordan when they signed him from Morton. He went South for £30,000!

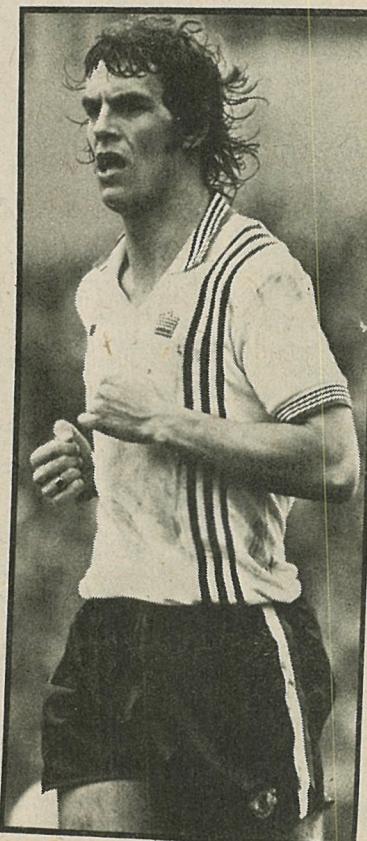
English clubs have been called

SOCCER SCROOGES

— Are English clubs exploiting the Scottish transfer market?



ABOVE . . . A happy Danny Blanchflower (left) after signing Eamonn Bannon from Hearts. LEFT . . . Kenny Dalglish has been a success since leaving Celtic for Liverpool. RIGHT . . . Man. Utd's Joe Jordan started his career with Morton.



Soccer Scrooges because of the way they treat Scottish teams. They continually plunder the market, but pay out only a fraction of the true value of the player.

Getting back to Bannon's transfer, it was argued Hearts had a fairly big overdraft. But what about Chelsea, the buying club? If they had the same sort of overdraft as the Tynecastle side they would probably do several laps of honour round London every morning until 1982!

It seems, sadly, Hearts were out manœuvred by Danny Blanchflower who played his cards superbly, even down to selling Steve Wicks to Derby for £275,000 and buying an attacking midfielder of rare class for £55,000 less.

Steve Wicks is a fair player, but it is doubtful whether he will make the same impact as Bannon. They play in different positions, of course, but even if a club wanted to buy Bannon from Chelsea in a year's time they would probably have to talk in terms of at least £350,000.

Scottish soccer badly needs money. The clubs also need supporters. Hearts sold Bannon just before they were due to play a Scottish Cup match against Raith Rovers at Stark's Park. They knew

they were already fighting an uphill battle to stay in the Premier and the only chance they had of giving their long suffering — and we mean long suffering! — fans a chance of glory was via the Cup.

Their timing was diabolical. As it turned out they still managed to beat their First Division opponents, but they have as much chance of winning the actual trophy as Britain has of going through a year without a strike.

Scotland acts like a careless millionaire, discarding his gold with flamboyant ease. That's the impression the clubs give when they allow class players to move on for transfer fees that can only be described as being possibly fair about a decade ago.

The clubs are going to take a good look at themselves and the market. They are going to have to make comparisons. They are going to have to go back to school and get their sums right.

For years great players have drifted to England for fees that just don't make any sense. When Celtic sold Dalglish they didn't realise the amount of problems they were lumbering themselves with. They didn't just sell one player. They sold an inspiration ... a player who brought out the best in those performing beside him. They sold a player who could defend, graft in midfield, set up chances and score 20 to 30 goals a season.

Contract

Celtic have long argued they do not want unhappy players at Parkhead. They want men who want to play for the club, players who will give their all and obviously that is what most clubs are aiming for. But Dalglish had just signed a new contract with the club before asking for a transfer.

If he had changed his mind in such a short time possibly he could have changed it back again and been happy to stay at Parkhead. Anyway, Celtic have had to dig deep into their coffers in an effort to replace Dalglish.

Billy McNeill, who must be given time to get his own ideas across to his players, has paid out £225,000 this season for Davie Provan, from Kilmarnock, and Murdo MacLeod, from Dumbarton. He has also been linked with Motherwell sweeper Gregor Stevens and he would cost at least £140,000.

Before McNeill took over, Jock Stein had spent £60,000 on Tom McAdam (Dundee United), £25,000 on John Dowie (Fulham), £20,000 on Frank Munro (Wolves) and £15,000 plus Brian McLaughlin on Joe Filippi (Ayr United). That's a total of £345,000 spent as Celtic have toiled without the services of the glittering Dalglish. Obviously not all of that money was spent just because Kenny went to Liverpool, but it is a fair indication that even a big club such as Celtic can be caught short when it comes to transfer market dealings with their English counterparts.

Some clubs, though, are growing up in the world of high finance. Take Morton, for instance.

The shrewd Hal Stewart has

kept the club alive with his dealings in the market and he couldn't have predicted the future that lay ahead of a young Joe Jordan when he was allowed to slip out of Cappielow.

When Newcastle made their move for winger Mark McGhee last season Morton were adamant he would not be allowed to go until they made a bid that made sense.

There was talk of £80,000 at one stage. Then it went up to £100,000. Eventually McGhee, a former free transfer player from Bristol City, went for around £150,000.

Considering his youth and his potential Newcastle could be happy with their buy and Morton could be happy, too, with their share of the action. Andy Ritchie is the latest Morton wizard to attract attention and again you can be sure the Cappielow club won't be interested in listening to offers

tration of a Scottish club not realising the potential of one of their players.

Clubs should realise what is going on in today's market. They should try to look to the future. Martin Buchan cost Manchester United £125,000 when they signed him from Aberdeen six years ago.

Martin has given his club great service in those years and if they decided to sell him today they would get their money back and more.

One of the all time daft transfers of a Scottish player to an English club for a fee that made people blink in utter astonishment must have been that of Dave Mackay from Hearts to Spurs back in the late Fifties.

Mackay had a personal fan club that could have filled several Edinburgh Castles, but he was still allowed to move to White Hart Lane for £35,000!

Hearts fans were angry then and they are certainly angry now. Mackay was a terrible blunder. His fee was ludicrous. Eamonn Bannon's is looked upon in the same manner.

The vicious circle has swung into action again. Ironically, Danny Blanchflower was a team-mate of Mackay in that successful Spurs side that won many friends in the Sixties. He should know a good player when he sees one.

He must have remembered how Hearts had been suckered into selling Mackay for a cut-price fee. Possibly that's why he made his move for Bannon, confident that his unrealistic offer would be accepted.



Aston Villa paid £25,000 to Dunfermline for Allan Evans (left). Dave Mackay's (right, holding Cup) transfer from Hearts to Spurs caused a storm of protest North of the border.





'Don't talk to me about playing in Europe'

Pleads Leeds' 'keeper David Harvey

DAVID Harvey has set his heart on playing in Europe again next season — but he prefers not to talk too much about it.

The Leeds goalkeeper comments: "We've come so close in the last year or two without making it I'd hate to be disappointed again."

"We were, of course, banned from Europe after the behaviour of a section of our fans in the European Cup Final against Bayern Munich in 1975. But if we had qualified last season, we could have appealed — and I'm sure we would have been allowed back in.

"I felt sure we were going to finish high enough in the table to get a U.E.F.A. place. But we faded at the end of the season, only winning one of our last seven games.

"The thought of playing in Europe again is what keeps the older players at Elland Road going. People like myself, Eddie Gray and Paul Madeley.

"It means everything to us. We've experienced a slump at Leeds over the past few years and European competition brings back memories of the good times we had under Don Revie."

Leeds have struggled to find the same sort of consistency under three managers since Revie. But now Jimmy Adamson, the former Sunderland manager, seems to have found the formula for renewed success.

Since he took over, the team's form has soared and they look like giving Harvey his dream of European soccer.

"The boss is a very hard man and very demanding. But at the same time, he understands the players, and has sympathy for them. We appreciate that.

"He has given the players at Elland Road their pride back. With all the changes we've had in recent

years, some of the players were cruising along a bit. But now they realise they owe some people something."

Adamson has also taught Leeds how to win again — and how to be mean again, the two traits that made them such a feared outfit under the management of Revie.

"We are quite capable of being mean, Scrooge-like and defensive away from home. But we can also play with a lot of flair and imagination. It depends who we're playing. If it's someone we've got a lot of respect for, then we might look at who is in their engine room and work out how to stop them.

"I suppose this is the way we were under Revie. But it's not easy to make comparisons because the side in the late Sixties and Seventies was a one-off really.

"One match that made me particularly proud was when we played at Aston Villa on Boxing Day. We were 2-0 down and could easily have given the game up as lost.

"Instead, we came back and ended up drawing 2-2. That really reminded me of the old Leeds, who didn't give anything to anybody.

"I think we've got as much ability as any other side in the country. But we've come to realise it's no good without discipline and 100 per cent commitment.

"We seem to have got that back since Jimmy Adamson took over and there's some of the old atmosphere at the ground."

There's also the expectancy of success. And the way things are going, qualifying for Europe should be a target well within their reach.

Harvey certainly hopes so but whispers it. His form in the Leeds goal has been brilliant this season — a fact no doubt hasn't escaped the attention of the Scottish F.A.

WHEN Brighton were reported to have made a huge offer of more than £300,000 for the Blackburn Rovers' full-backs John Bailey and Kevin Hird, one man who cannot have been surprised was Birmingham boss Jim Smith.

For Smith had played a major part in converting two useful Second Division attackers into potential First Division full-backs. Smith's master-stroke did not attract much publicity at the time, but seems certain to pay dividends for Blackburn within the next few years.

The fact is, Blackburn can't lose. They might have been sorry to see Jim Smith go to Birmingham but they are sitting on two gold-mines in Bailey and Hird. Already this season, the list of managers and scouts from First Division clubs is



KEVIN HIRD

on the overlap. How defensive can you get? But it has posed a few problems.

"To me, Kevin is one of the best right-backs in England. He is a tremendously skilful player who has come on. Maybe one criticism I'd make of him is he needs to express himself more on the field. But I reckon that will come. Kevin is 23 and has been at Rovers longer than me. But we've been together in the first team for three years and were both wingers before Jim Smith moved us back. I'm much happier now in this position and Kevin is the same — we wouldn't want to play up-front all the time these days. We get more success this way."

"We work, as a side, on getting forward and several of our attacks stem from full-backs overlapping. We always try and get at least one of us forward into attack and I believe we have had some of our best games for the side when we have been playing away, and have found some space."

Bailey doesn't want their partnership to be broken through a transfer deal. He says: "I would like to continue playing in the same side as Kevin and I'm sure he feels the same way. I reckon Kevin shoots harder than me and is also a better crosser of the ball from the flanks. That makes me try to improve, so you see how we help each other."

"We would both like to play in the First Division and I thought we had a great chance of doing so this season, after finishing fifth last

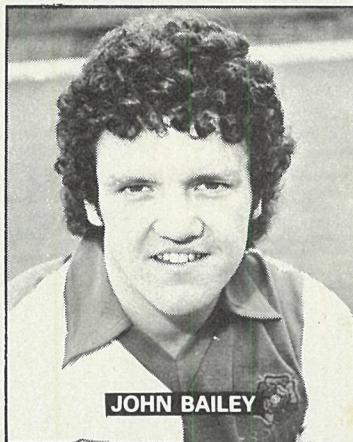
BLACKBURN'S 'GOLD-MINES'

both lengthy and impressive. They have all been making their way to Ewood Park to assess two of the brightest young defenders anywhere in the Football League. It may not be long before one or both is on the move to a big name club.

The lucky buyer would be well advised to buy both, if they can afford it. For Bailey and Hird have created an extraordinary kind of partnership and relationship in the Rovers' side. It is customary for strikers or midfield men to forge partnerships with their colleagues. But it is rare for two full-backs to work so closely together.

Bailey, now aged just 21, says: "It's true we have a great working relationship. We have helped each other improve and tell each other things about our respective games, both on and off the field. It's a great help to both of us. We are both attacking full-backs. We work it so that one of us usually goes forward, or tries to one week, and the next week the other has a go. Maybe we've been too attack minded and we have been caught out in defensive duties at times. But I think we are learning to defend better."

"Our strength, though, is undoubtedly going forward and overlapping down the flanks. But other sides are now familiar with our system this season. Last term, sides didn't know how to cope with us both tearing down the flanks in attack. But this time we even go away to other sides' grounds and find their wingers are marking us, to stop us attacking



JOHN BAILEY

year in the Second. But we made a poor start this term and it's been disappointing so far. We were all saddened when Jim Smith left. He was a great bloke to work for and got along with his players. But you've got to make the best of it and roll your sleeves up."

"We have all got to improve at Rovers. Kevin and I need to improve our defensive play because we are not natural defenders and must learn more about the role of full-backs. Maybe we are a little too much intent on attacking, I don't know. But it's worked in the past and we hope it keeps working — for us and for the side."

Whoever signs Bailey and Hird will get a bargain. With a little more application in defence, they could become two of the best in the business.

MALCOLM PAGE

Birmingham City



SHOOT!